

EC unable to agree on Mideast statement

BONN (R) — The European Community (EC) has not agreed on a new Middle East declaration only three days before its foreign ministers are due to meet King Hussein, a West German Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday. The ministers and the monarch are expected to discuss possibilities for a peace settlement in the Middle East at a meeting in Bonn Monday. Diplomats from EC member states in Bonn said the text of a declaration had been drafted but was rejected by some EC states because they considered it too anti-Israeli. Diplomatic sources said they expected the foreign ministers' meeting to voice the bloc's support for an international Middle East peace conference. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said it was important that any peace proposals should involve all the parties in the region.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدرها مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية، الرأى

Murphy in London en route to Mideast

LONDON (R) — U.S. envoy Richard Murphy arrived in London Friday for talks with British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe on ways to revive the Middle East peace process, the Foreign Office said. Murphy, who earlier met French and Jordanian officials in Paris, was due to leave later for the Middle East where he was expected to visit Syria, Saudi Arabia and Israel to try to get the stalled peace process moving. A Foreign Office spokesman said Murphy, an assistant secretary of state, would spend several hours with Howe and other officials at the foreign secretary's residence south of London. Israeli sources said Murphy had made proposals to Israel and Jordan for a period of limited "self-rule" for the Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank. U.S. officials, who have been secretive about Murphy's mission, denied that he was carrying detailed proposals on his mission.

Volume 13 Number 3698

AMMAN SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6, 1988, JAMADA AL THANI 17, 1408

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Tabba' returns

AMMAN (J.T.) — Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Hamdi Al Tabba' returned home Friday night after heading the Jordanian delegation to the 44th meeting of the Arab Economic and Social Council which took place in Tunis on Feb. 1 and lasted four days. The minister said upon arrival that the council would hold an extraordinary meeting during the first week of July to examine the operations of regional Arab organizations and other joint Arab entities. He added that the council had issued important decisions on Arab food security and on promoting Arab trade.

Aides to Mubarak, Peres meet in Rome

ROME (AP) — Advisers to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met here Friday to discuss Middle East peace efforts, an Israeli embassy spokesman said. The spokesman quoted Nimrod Novick, Peres' political adviser, as saying he had "an exchange of positions and opinions" with Osama Al Baz, Mubarak's political adviser. The two officials conferred on the "Middle East issue and its various aspects," the spokesman said.

Arafat to visit Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat will visit Moscow shortly to discuss a Soviet proposal for an international Middle East peace conference, a senior PLO official said Friday. Nayef Hawatme, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, told reporters Arafat would arrive in the Soviet capital in late February or early March. Hawatme has been visiting Moscow at the head of a four-member Palestinian delegation. He told a news conference that Arafat's visit was agreed during his talks Thursday with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Italian government survives vote

ROME (R) — Italy's Chamber of Deputies finally approved a battered 1988 budget bill Friday in a vote vital for survival of the frail five-party coalition government. Politicians said defeat in the secret ballot on the budget bill as a whole would have meant the almost certain resignation of the six-month-old government of Christian Democrats, Socialists, Republicans, Social Democrats and Liberals. But the government's victory in the secret ballot by 331 votes to 263 gave it only a few more weeks of breathing space, political sources said.

Britain holds Sikh bombing suspect

LONDON (AP) — Police Friday arrested a Sikh in connection with a 1985 explosion at a Japanese airport in which two people died. West Midlands police said traffic officers stopped Jinderjit Singh Rayat, a 35-year-old electrician, as he drove to work at the Jaguar car factory in Coventry, and he was then taken into custody by anti-terrorist squad officers. Assistant chief constable Tom Meffan said Rayat, who holds a British passport, was detained on behalf of Canadian authorities under terms of an extradition warrant issued by magistrates at London's Bow Street court.

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15 hospitalised after beatings in Gaza

Occupation army, settlers shoot and wound 8 Arabs

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops and settlers shot and wounded eight Palestinians during renewed violent protests in the occupied West Bank Friday, Arab hospitals said.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, 21 Palestinians were admitted to hospitals after being beaten by soldiers, hospital records showed. They included a 75-year-old woman and 13 residents of the Jabalya refugee camp.

About 200 Arab protesters raised the Palestinian flag and pelted rocks at Israeli police at the Haram Al Shari' complex in Jerusalem.

Two Palestinians were wounded by gunfire in Hebron when soldiers opened fire to subdue dozens of Arab protesters who barricaded the main road with burning tyres, then hurled rocks at soldiers and passing cars, the army said.

Five other Palestinians were hospitalised at the Al Itihad hospital in Nablus with gunshot wounds to the legs and feet, a hospital official said.

Israel Radio said one of the

wounded, a 16-year-old girl from the village of Hawara, was shot in the foot by an Israeli settler who opened fire after his car was stoned.

A New York-born Jewish settler whose skull was fractured by a stone thrown by Arab protesters regained consciousness Friday. His brother-in-law, a lawyer from Queens, suffered a broken chest bone in the incident Thursday outside the Arab village of Malik, 25 kilometres north of Jerusalem.

According to U.N. figures, 43 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli gunfire since the uprising began Dec. 9 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Throughout the occupied territories, clashes were reported following prayers Friday. Helicopters dropped tear-gas onto about 60 Palestinians who hurled rocks and chanted anti-Israeli slogans

at Gaza City's main Al Amari Mosque, an Arab witness told the AP.

The Palestine Press Service (PPS) reported clashes between soldiers and Arab protesters in the West Bank villages of Salem, Hawara and Toubas, all outside Nablus.

In Jerusalem, two Arab protesters emerged from noon prayers at the Al Aqsa Mosque waving a Palestinian flag and chanting anti-Israeli slogans. They were carried on the shoulders of dozens of other Palestinians.

A police spokesman said three Arabs were arrested and reporters saw at least half a dozen demonstrators.

Israeli authorities cut off the electricity supply to Gaza City during the prayers in an apparent attempt to prevent mosque loudspeakers being used to call out demonstrators.

There were 700 riot police in Arab Jerusalem, mostly near Al Aqsa Mosque.

Police ordered the closure for a week of all schools in Arab Jerusalem, affecting about 30,000 pupils, to prevent protests. All schools in the West Bank were ordered closed earlier this week.

S. Lebanon alert against Israeli reprisal attack

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — South Lebanon remained tense and resistance fighters were on full alert Friday against possible Israeli reprisal attacks after a three-man Palestinian commando squad killed two Israeli soldiers in a clash Thursday.

Palestinian sources quoted by Reuters said one of the three commandos had returned safely to Lebanon, although they refused to reveal his identity and whereabouts.

Sidon residents said Israeli warplanes flew low over the city and staged mock raids on the Palestinian refugee camps of Ain Al Hilweh and Mich Mieb and surrounding hilltops.

Fighters and Lebanese militiamen were on alert behind anti-aircraft guns in the hills and the coast road for fear of Israeli retaliation for the attack, claimed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The guerrillas Thursday ambushed an Israeli army patrol near a Jewish settlement after they crossed the border from Lebanon, killing two soldiers and wounding another.

One of the guerrillas was killed while another was wounded and captured. Israeli troops launched a search for the guerrilla now reported back in Lebanon.

It was the second time Palestinian commandos had managed to cross the border in two weeks.

Qadhafi, Ibn Ali hold talks on Maghreb union

TUNIS (Agencies) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, undaunted by a string of unsuccessful unions between his country and other Arab states, pressed his ideas on how to reunify the Arab World during talks in Tunisia Friday.

Qadhafi met Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali for a second round of discussions followed by a meeting with government ministers, the official TAP news agency said. Qadhafi said on his arrival Thursday that his talks would centre on the formation of a North African union of Arab states.

Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche has said Qadhafi gave his unity document to Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. The Libyan leader has forged a series of unsuccessful unions with other states in the past, including Tunisia and Morocco.

Algeria opposes Qadhafi's plan

and wants Libya instead to join a non-aggression pact, stressing economic links, which it signed with Tunisia and Mauritania in 1983.

This would exclude Morocco, with which Algeria is at odds over the 12-year-old Western Sahara war. But Tunisia insists that Morocco cannot be left out.

Qadhafi's trip to Tunisia sets the seal on a restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries in December after a break of more than two years.

Tunisia severed ties in September 1985 when Libya expelled some 33,000 Tunisian migrant workers.

The 46-year-old colonel, accompanied by a large entourage in two white-and-gold Boeing 707s, was warmly greeted by Ibn Ali at Tunis-Carthage airport Thursday.

Qadhafi was accompanied by Foreign Minister Jaddallah Azzouzi Al Talhi.

King concludes talks in Paris; Mitterrand reaffirms support

PARIS (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein began a private visit to France after concluding talks with President Francois Mitterrand Wednesday.

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Mitterrand "confirmed France's position on Middle Eastern affairs to the King, as he had done to President Mubarak Monday," a presidential statement said.

"The deadlock, shown by the serious events in recent weeks in Gaza and the West Bank, is a tragic reminder of the need to give people in the region some hope for a fair solution and to continue to work for an international conference," it added.

'Peace Ship' to set sail Wednesday

ATHENS (Agencies) — A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official in Athens said Friday that a new date has been set for a boat-trip to take Palestinian deportees back to Israel after the original journey was cancelled.

Puad Bittar, head of the PLO mission in Athens, told reporters that a ship, yet to be named, would leave Piraeus next Wednesday for Haifa.

The Greek owners of the original ship, the 18,000-tonne car ferry Silver Paloma, which was due to sail next Tuesday taking about 100 Palestinians to Haifa, cancelled the trip without giving a reason Thursday.

"All we can say is that our ship is not going," an Afrosia line official said.

There was no immediate reaction from the Greek government to fierce criticism from Israel for failing to ban the PLO voyage.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Thursday that Greece's rejection of his request to prevent the cruise was "an unfriendly act." Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir called the voyage "a hostile act."

Greek government officials said that Foreign Minister Carlos Papoulias has not yet given any reply to Peres on the ship, dubbed the "peace ship."

Premier Andreas Papandreu's Socialist government, which supports the Palestinian cause, has said it can't prevent the PLO boat from sailing.

"We note that the private individuals involved said they want to contribute to a peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem," a government spokesman said.

The spokesman also denied a report that the government was asked to provide a naval escort for the PLO ship as it sails through the East Mediterranean.

The PLO representative also said that plans for the ship to call at Larnaca in Cyprus in order to pick up Israeli sympathisers were still in effect.

"Everything is still on schedule," Bittar said.

The PLO has said that if the ship is forbidden to enter Israeli waters it will cruise just outside them for several days before making the return voyage to Piraeus.

The journey aims at focusing international attention on the plight of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The expedition divided public opinion in Israel, with extremists vowing to intercept the ship while a group of left-wing Jewish and Arab writers and artists said it would welcome the deportees.

Regent urges bridging gap between leaders and public

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, urged Arab intellectuals and communicators Friday to contribute to bridging the gap between the perceptions of decision-makers and the silent majority in the Arab World on issues related to the complexities of Arab causes.

"It is important that we do not give up our responsibility in addressing the silent majority who are in need to know that their leaders are aware of their causes," the Crown Prince told the annual meeting of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF).

He said people should be informed that their leaders are "responding to their stands and feelings... and concerned with keeping open the communication channels between themselves and their citizens for the exchange of opinion and an explanation and clarification of stands."

Speaking in the context of the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, Prince Hassan told the forum that people "should not be left to become victims of mistaken allegations, gossip and poisoned thought."

"In this context," the Crown Prince said, "an irresponsible demand for total freedom in the absence of institutions through which legitimate demands of the silent majority can be fulfilled, may help drive young people towards organised extremism."

He pointed out that he was "one of those who always call for an open and responsible dialogue."

He called on Arab intellectuals from 20 Arab countries present at the forum "not to leave the arena open for illogical and rigid forces," and to "become aware that all of us — Jordanians, Jordanian Palestinians and Jordanian Arabs — know the way to dealing with the current events, despite their bitterness and harshness, through a proper analysis and understanding and the requirements of the circumstances themselves."

He reminded the 170-member ATF that "Jordan was the first to call for the (Palestinian) right to self-determination," rejected (Jewish) settlements and warned of their threat."

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Amnesty voices alarm at torture of Palestinians

U.S. adds to criticism of Israel at U.N. human rights panel

GENEVA (R) — The United States added its voice Friday at the U.N. Human Rights Commission to a chorus of criticism of Israeli treatment of Palestinians, but it called for balance to avoid inflaming the situation.

The human rights Amnesty International expressed alarm at reports it had received of Israeli torture of Palestinians, including beatings of the genitals, and it called for a thorough investigation of Israeli killings and beatings.

Israel has been attacked from all sides in the opening week of the U.N. body's annual review of human rights abuses worldwide. The commission, which cannot enforce any of its resolutions, relies on worldwide pressure to stimulate improvements.

U.S. Ambassador Armando Valladares said his country understood Israel's need to maintain order.

"However, the means used to restore civil order in any situation of popular unrest must involve a minimum of violence and a maximum of political restraint," he

declared, reiterating U.S. criticism of "indiscriminate beatings." He said deportations of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip violated the Fourth Geneva Convention — even though Monday the United States vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for Israel to observe the convention.

But he said: "If we are to play a constructive role rather than a destructive one, we must make certain that our language does not inflame... we need a balanced approach."

The other four permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — Britain, France, China and the Soviet Union — sharply attacked Israeli practices Thursday.

The Amnesty International criticism was unusually harsh for the

normally discreet organization, delegates said.

"The highest authorities of the Israeli government should make clear to all law enforcement personnel that torture and ill-treatment will not be tolerated," the group asserted in a speech prepared for delivery at the Friday session.

"Amnesty International has received numerous reports, including affidavits, that detainees have been beaten, kicked and punched on arrest and while being taken into custody."

"Interrogation methods described by former detainees have included hoodings, beatings on the body including the head and genitals, Falaga (beatings on the soles of the feet) the advance text said.

Other interrogation methods included "being hung by a rope from the ceiling and swung from wall to wall, prolonged exposure to cold weather or air conditioning, solitary confinement for between two and 15 days, prolonged sleep deprivation and verbal abuse and threats."

The human rights body said it urged Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin in December — who last month announced a policy of "night, power and beatings" — to order a thorough investigation of the killings and beatings.

At least 43 Palestinians have been killed and more than 700 injured since unrest intensified in December. Amnesty noted that Palestinian sources give a considerably higher death toll.

Some investigations have been carried out, it said, but it remained "concerned that not all cases have been investigated and that the use of live ammunition and beatings continues."

Amnesty said Palestinians had been arrested arbitrarily, held incommunicado, and denied basic rights in summary trials.

Israeli Minister-Counselor Ralph Walden, a senior diplomat here, said Thursday that the rebellion had obliged Israel to use force, and he attacked the human rights record of many countries which criticized it.

French mediator leaves Beirut without 2 hostages

BEIRUT (R) — French mediator Lucien Bitterlin left Beirut Friday without securing the release of two young French girls held by Palestinian commandos.

"I am going to Paris. This is the second step of my mission concerning the problem of the children of Silco," Bitterlin said in brief remarks to Reuters and Visnews television news agency.

The Fateh Revolutionary Council (FRC) announced on Nov. 8 it had seized the girls and six adults, including their mother, from the yacht Silco off the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.

Jacqueline Valente, the mother of Marie-Laure, five, and Virginie, six, said in a videotape issued by the FRC that she refused to hand her daughters to their father and wanted to keep them with her.

The guerrillas said in December they were prepared to release the girls to their father. Valente's ex-husband Pascal Bitterlin. The FRC claims the adults it holds are Jewish Israeli spies.

Bitterlin, head of the Franco-Arab Solidarity Association, had talks with the group in early January on freeing the sisters. He returned to Beirut last Saturday.

On Thursday, Bitterlin said FRC officials were discussing the possibility of releasing Valente with her children.

"I may come back. I am confident in the decision taken by the Central Committee of the FRC to find a solution and return Valente to her home in the most humanitarian possible way," he added Friday.

"The problem we are facing now is sentimental. The children are refusing to leave their mother," Bitterlin said Thursday.

The FRC are not planning to release the girls at this stage so they must find solution. The girls are attached to their mother," Bitterlin said.

He said all the technical problems of transferring the two girls to Paris had been solved.

42 hurt in Cairo train collision

CAIRO (AP) — Forty-two people were injured in a commuter train collision in Cairo Thursday night, a railway police officer said Friday.

Dr. Col. Ahmad Matar told the Associated Press that most of the injuries were minor, with 31 people given first aid and immediately discharged. Eleven passengers were in hospitals "with medium injuries and in satisfactory condition," he said.

The collision occurred on a line linking Cairo's eastern suburbs. A waiting train at the Saray Al Kubhah Station was rammed from behind by an oncoming train that failed to stop in time.

Sudan reports killing 27 rebels

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Sudanese troops killed 27 rebels in a clash in south Sudan's Equatoria province, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported Friday.

It did not say when the fighting took place but added that two soldiers were wounded.

Rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) have fought troops since 1983 in a bid to give the African south more autonomy over its affairs.

Bombing runs off the vital rebel-held town of Kapoeta killed 51 insurgents, a military spokesman said Thursday, but the rebels failed to dislodge the guerrillas.

The spokesman said government troops killed 34 fighters of the SPLA in two other southern Sudan battles. Former rebels of the Anyanya II Movement helped the soldiers in one of the engagements, he said.

The army general command said the 27 rebels died in a government attack on an SPLA camp. It said troops confiscated a number of cattle and retrieved five women abducted earlier by the rebels in a raid on another camp in Upper Nile region.

The disclosure of the Sudan Air Force raids on Kapoeta was the first report in several weeks of action by bombers in Sudan's almost 5-year-old civil war. Their last reported use was last December against rebels' positions in Kurrum on the Ethiopian border during a successful push to drive out rebel occupiers.

The military spokesman said the air force raids were aimed at defensive fortifications the rebels have built in Kapoeta, where in addition to killing 51 rebels the bombs destroyed two mortars.

Kapoeta, near the borders of Kenya and Uganda, has been in rebel hands since Jan. 12, when thousands of soldiers and others reportedly fled into Uganda. The town's strategic importance is enhanced because it sits astride the main road into Sudan from Kenya.

On Thursday, an SPLA radio broadcast threatened that planes carrying relief supplies to the south would be shot down. The broadcast said the government is trying to rebuild its forces at Kapoeta and rebel gunners would be unable to differentiate between planes carrying military supplies and those with relief goods.

Prime Minister Sadek Al Mahdi said Tuesday that a military airbridge had been established with the south in an effort to retake Kapoeta. He said the government also was flying relief supplies to famine-threatened Juba, 1,280 kilometres south of Khartoum and 160 kilometres from the Ugandan border.

The United Nations and several relief agencies also are planning to fly food to Juba, whose population, swollen with Kapoeta refugees, face starvation.

The military spokesman said soldiers were helped in one of the Upper Nile raids by members of Anyanya II, an outgrowth of a former southern rebel force that

has recently switched to the government side in its fight with the SPLA. Two of the Anyanya fighters were reported slain in the attack.

Relief agencies planned to start an emergency food airlift Saturday to war-torn southern Sudan, despite rebel threats to shoot down planes.

Norwegian church Aid said its chartered Boeing 707 Thursday flew 30 tonnes of dried beans from Nairobi to the southern Sudanese provincial capital of Juba.

"We have discussed this continuously because the threat has been there all the time, so we are trying to be alert," said a spokesman for the Norwegian agency who did not want to be named.

On Saturday, the Boeing is scheduled to start moving 300 tonnes of food to Juba from Norwegian Church Aid and the World Food Programme (WFP). The Swiss and West German governments are helping pay costs of \$180,000 for 10 flights planned in February.

The Norwegian relief official said the Kenyan air charter company, Nile Safaris Aviation, "has not indicated it is unwilling to fly." The company refused comment.

Last year, the SPLA accused Nile Safaris of carrying weapons for the Sudanese government and threatened to attack their planes. But the company's aircraft have flown into southern Sudan without incident many times since then.

Hobeika: Armenians killed French agent

BEIRUT (R) — An ousted Lebanese militia chief, in remarks published here Friday, accused Armenian guerrillas of killing French intelligence agent Jacques Merin, gunned down in Beirut Tuesday.

Elie Hobeika, who headed the main Christian Lebanese Forces militia until an internal feud in 1986, said the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) had also killed four other French citizens in the city since 1986.

Hobeika, in a statement which Beirut newspapers said was made in Paris Thursday, said his followers had nothing to do with Merin's death.

"It (the militia) had had contact with Merin until 1985. Merin was investigating the activities of the Secret Armenian Army. The Secret Armenian Army is involved in attacks on French interests and citizens in east Beirut, especially the assassination of the French military attaché, two French guards, engineer (Richard) Gempel and Merin."

Merin was at first identified as businessman Jacques Merin but his real name was Merin and that he was an agent of the French secret service.

The other victims mentioned by Hobeika were the French

embassy's military attaché, Christian Gontiere, killed in 1986, two embassy guards in 1987, and engineer Richard Gempel the same year.

ASALA, founded in 1975 and believed based in Lebanon, has not claimed any of the killings. It demands the release of its members, Varoujan Garbidjian, imprisoned in Paris for a bomb attack which killed eight people in France's Orly Airport in 1983.

Three gunmen in a car intercepted Merin near Lebanese Security Police Headquarters and pumped bullets into his head with submachine guns equipped with silencers.

Vatican backs efforts for Mideast conference

VATICAN CITY (R) — The Vatican has described the situation in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as painful and worrying and said it backed efforts for a Middle East peace conference.

"The Holy See, which has often underlined the gravity of the question, cannot remain indifferent when faced with the painful and worrying incidents experienced by the population of the occupied territories," Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said.

Israeli troops have killed 43 Palestinians in eight weeks of unrest in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Navarro said the Vatican was concerned about the lack of a solution to the Palestinian ques-

tion and added that the Vatican encouraged "efforts to find a Middle East peace that would be acceptable to all."

His statement was made after talks in the Vatican between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) number two Farouk Kaddoumi and Archbishop Achille Silvestrini, the Vatican's foreign minister.

Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, thanked Silvestrini for the moral support the Vatican has given to the Palestinian cause, Navarro said.

Kaddoumi told reporters Wednesday after meeting Italian politicians that no new Middle East peace initiatives could be considered until Israel ended its occupation.

Pope John Paul, who met His Majesty King Hussein Monday, has called for a Palestinian homeland, for secure borders for Israel and for special status for Jerusalem as a city sacred to Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

In December, the Pope said the Holy Land could not be "a theatre of violence, of confrontation and injustice," and that he felt close to Palestinians suffering in the occupied lands.

The Palestinian question and the status of Jerusalem are the two main obstacles to diplomatic relations between Israel and the Vatican.

In 1982, Pope John Paul II received PLO leader Yasser Arafat, drawing stiff protests from Israel and Jewish groups.

Gunmen kidnap 2 UNRWA workers in Sidon

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Masked Palestinian commandos abducted two Scandinavian U.N. relief workers in southern Lebanon Friday, militia security sources said.

Nial Kieley, public information officer for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA), identified the two as Jan Stening, 44, from Sweden and Norwegian William Jorgensen, 58.

He said the agency, which provides work for thousands of Palestinian refugees in the Middle East, "did not know why the two were seized. We have no indication the two were threatened before."

UNRWA was urgently contacting "whoever can help," he said. Militia security sources in Beirut said the kidnappers were Palestinians who could be loyal to the Abu Nidal's Fateh Revolutionary Council (FRC) guerrilla group or to Muslim fundamentalists.

The two men, who had supervised UNRWA operations in the Tyre area of southern Lebanon for nearly a year, were taken to Ain Al Hilweh Refugee Camp, the sources said.

The abductions brought to 27 the number of foreigners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon. But it was the first time Scandinavians had been targeted since pro-Iranian Muslims began seizing foreigners in Lebanon three years ago.

An UNRWA spokesman in Sidon said four gunmen, wearing green military fatigues and ski masks and brandishing automatic rifles, stopped Stening and Jorgensen as they drove along Maarouf Saad Street at the south-

ern entrance to Sidon at nine a.m. (0700 GMT).

He said they were heading for a weekend break in Beirut from their base in Tyre, south of Sidon, in a Renault car flying the white and blue UNRWA flag.

"The gunmen surrounded the car and immediately smashed the side windows at the front with the butts of their rifles and dragged the two out. They put them in a Mercedes sedan and sped away," he said.

He quoted witnesses as saying the two did not resist. Eyewitnesses also said the gunmen had parked their Mercedes about 20 metres from the Renault and forced the two men to walk to the kidnapper car.

Stening arrived in Lebanon in April 1987 and Jorgensen in May. It was the second kidnapping in Lebanon in 10 days. On Jan. 27, gunmen in mainly Muslim west Beirut grabbed West German Ralph Schray, apparently to force the release of two Lebanese held by Bonn.

Sidon is controlled by the Sunni Muslim Popular Liberation Army but the Shiite Muslim Amal militia has checkpoints at its southern edge and Palestinian commandos command surrounding hills.

In Vienna, UNRWA Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli called for the immediate release of the two agency workers and said he had also asked U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to make urgent efforts to secure their release.

"These two men were performing a humanitarian task and have been supervising relief operations

for thousands of Palestine refugees and other needy people in the Tyre area," Giacomelli said in a statement issued by UNRWA's Vienna headquarters.

"UNRWA is making contacts through diplomatic and other channels to seek the immediate release of these staff members and I have informed the secretary-general asking him to make urgent efforts to gain the release of these two innocent men."

Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson Friday expressed his "utmost regrets" that a Swedish citizen for the first time was abducted in Lebanon, the national news agency TT reported.

"I express my utmost regrets that now also a Swede is affected. He is employed, as far as I know, at the UNRWA and is thus doing something for fellow men," Carlsson was quoted as saying.

"It is completely unreasonable that something like this should happen to him. But we will look into the matter through our diplomatic channels," he said.

In Oslo, Norwegian Foreign Ministry spokesman Per Faust told Reuters: "This is a detestable action against innocent relief workers there to help bring a better life to people in the area, and the Norwegian government demands their immediate release."

They urged states to draft severe laws to punish terrorists but did not specify measures.

"International cooperation has to be developed to reach a clear understanding about terrorism, making the definition acceptable to all countries," a resolution said.

Richard Ward, conference co-chairman, told Reuters delegates disagreed on such a definition. "But we all agreed to explore new avenues for better cooperation on the issue," he said.

Ward, from the Office of International Criminal Justice at the University of Illinois, said there was general agreement that air hijacking was a criminal offence regardless of its reasons.

"Whatever the cause, political or otherwise, hijacking which involves innocent people is wrong and a criminal act," he said.

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TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.					
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 77311-19 PROGRAMME ONE 15:30 Koran 15:50 Programme Review 15:55 Children's programme 16:30 The Bunny 16:40 Eureka 16:55 How Things Work 17:05 Tripods 17:30 Winter Olympic Games 17:50 Arabic series 18:05 Message from Iraq 19:15 Family programme 19:45 Programme review 20:00 News in Arabic 20:40 Marned with Children (comedy) 21:40 Local historical seminar 22:15 Varieties 23:00 News Summary in Arabic 23:15 Close down PROGRAMME TWO 17:45 La perla 18:00 News in French 19:15 French varieties: UNIB de week 19:30 News in Hebrew 19:45 Varieties 20:00 News in Arabic 20:40 Marned with Children (comedy) 21:40 Magazine Zero One 21:15 Saturday Variety Show 22:00 News in English 22:20 Feature feature film		TODAY'S EVENTS FOLK DANCE ★ Performances of Romanian folk dance daily at 9:00 p.m. at Alla Gateway Hotel (until Feb. 10). AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL ★ "Desperately Seeking Susan" (1985) at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre as part of the American film festival (until Feb. 7). PUPPET FOR CHILDREN ★ The Goethe Institute presents "Puppet for Children" at 4:00 p.m. at the Haya Arts Centre. Tel. 631711. CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267 American Centre .. 644371 British Council .. 6361678 French Cultural Centre .. 637009 Goethe Institute .. 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre .. 642033 Spanish Cultural Centre .. 624049 Turkish Cultural Centre .. 637777 Haya Arts Centre .. 665195 Hussein Youth City .. 6671816 Y.W.C.A. .. 641793 Y.W.M.A. .. 642521 Amman Music Library .. 637111 Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843555 MUSEUMS "Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday. Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 631760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: An excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00		QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (02) 532050, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 06:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (J) 07:30 Cairo (J) 08:30 Kuwait (J) 09:30 Damascus (J) 09:30 Karachi, Dubai (J) 09:30 Dhahran (J) 09:30 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (J) 10:00 Agaba (J) 10:40 New York, Vienna (J) 17:30 Athens (J) 18:00 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (J) 19:40 Tripoli (J) 21:45 Sydney (add. J) 23:25 Agaba (J) OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 02:45 Belgrade, Istanbul (TU) 03:45 Agaba (J) 14:45 Kuwait (KU) 14:45 Tripoli (LV) 15:00 Riyadh (SV) 16:35 Cairo (MS) 21:45 Rome (AZ) 23:25 Paris, Damascus (AF) DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 06:15 Agaba (J) 07:45 Agaba (J) 18:45 Tripoli (LV) 11:30 Vienna, New York (J) 11:30 Athens (J) 11:30 Paris (J) 11:45 Rome, Madrid (RJ) 11:55 Geneva, Brussels (RJ) 12:00 London (RJ) 12:15 Frankfurt (RJ) 12:30 Kuwait (J) 19:35 Bahrain, Doha (RJ) 28:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) 21:15 Jeddah (RJ) OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 04:45 Istanbul, Belgrade (TU) 06:20 Frankfurt (LFH) 06:30 Cairo, London (BA)		FOR THE TRAVELLER PRAYER TIMES 05:45 Fair 06:23 (Saurat) Doha 11:50 Doha 14:50 Doha 17:16 Doha 21:45 Maghrib 23:36 Jala MONEY EXCHANGE Thursday rates Belgian franc .. 95.9 / 97.9 Dutch guilder .. 178.4 / 182.1 French franc .. 59.4 / 60.6 Italian lira .. 27.3 / 27.8 Japanese yen (for 100) .. 262.4 / 267.4 Swiss crown .. 55.8 / 56.8 Swiss franc .. 246.2 / 251.9 U.K. sterling pound .. 594.9 / 607 U.S. dollar .. 335.4 / 340.7 W. German mark .. 200.3 / 204.5 WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. It will be partly cloudy with slight rain. Slight rise in temperature will occur. The wind will be northerly. In Agaba, it will be partly cloudy, northerly wind and calm sea. Amman .. Min./max. temp. 5/14 Agaba .. 10/21 Deserts .. 4/15 Jordan Valley .. 9/20 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 10, Agaba 18. Humidity readings: Amman 87 per cent, Agaba 45 per cent.		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS. EMERGENCIES Amman governorate .. 891228 Amman Civil Defence .. 198, 199 Civil Defence Irbid .. 271293, 273131 Civil Defence Quneitra .. 707033 Civil Defence Deir Alla .. 57306 Ambulance .. 193, 775111 Amman downtown fire brigade .. 198 First aid .. 630341 Blood Bank .. 778393 Civil Defence Hama .. 661111 Fire headquarters .. 622090-3 Police rescue .. 192, 621111, 637777 Police headquarters .. 639141 Traffic police .. 8963901 Electric Power Co. .. 636364, 624881 Municipal water complaints .. 7712536 Queen Alia Intl. Airport .. (08)5330360 TAXIS Rainbow taxi .. 637340 Nahla taxi .. 663030 Karnak taxi .. 669761 Qasbi taxi .. 630406 Jihad taxi .. 673660 Ousem taxi .. 671620 Lathi taxi .. 790358 Qadish taxi .. 637349 HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre .. 81381332 Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. .. 642816 Akleh Maternity, J. Amn. .. 642412 Al-Farooq Maternity .. 642362 Madhat, J. Amn. .. 661640 Palestine, Shmeisani .. 661714 Shmeisani Hospital .. 669131 University Hospital .. 84384565 Al-Musader Hospital .. 6672719 The Islamic, Abdali .. 66612737 Al-Ahli, Abdali .. 6641646 Italian, Al-Muhajir .. 7710103 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh .. 77511226 Army, Marka .. 89161115 Queen Alia Hospital .. 60224050 Amal Hospital .. 674155 GENERAL Jordan Television .. 773111/19 Radio Jordan .. 774111/19 Ministry of Tourism .. 642311 Hotel complaints .. 666412 Police complaints .. 661176 Telephone information .. 12 Jordan and Middle East calls .. 10 Overseas calls .. 17 Repair service .. 11		NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Tawfiq Qub'tin .. 632029 Dr. Khaleel Abdo .. 793392 Dr. George Salameh .. 894546 Dr. Tayyar Sa'ib .. 776324 First pharmacy .. 661912 Ferdous pharmacy .. 778336 Al Asama pharmacy .. 637055 Nairook pharmacy .. 632672 Al Salam pharmacy .. 636739 Yacoub pharmacy .. 644945 Shmeisani pharmacy .. 637660 IRBID: Dr. Mohammad Ta'mi .. 242711 Al Shams' pharmacy .. 275825 ZARQA: Dr. Ziyad Saleem .. (—) Khalifeh pharmacy .. 982417	
RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz, AM & FM, MW, FM & parh, on 9540 KHz, SW Tel: 77111-19 07:00 Morning Show 07:50 Newsdesk 08:00 Morning Show 08:00 News Summary 08:05 Morning Show Contd. 11:00 Hussein: The Story of Motown 12:00 News Summary 12:05 Pop Session 13:05 News Summary 13:05 Pop Session 14:00 News Bulletin 14:30 Jordan Weekly 15:00 Concert Hour 16:00 News Summary 16:05 Instrumentals/Old Favourites 16:05 Special Feature 17:30 Good Old Days 18:00 News Summary 18:05 Top Twenty 19:00 Newsdesk/Music 19:30 Date with a Star 20:00 Young Sound 20:30 Discovering Music 21:00 Play of the Week 22:00 Country Music		VOICE OF AMERICA MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 1740, 11925 & 15210 Hz 06:00 News 06:10 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:18 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 VOA Morning 17:00 News 17:10 Close 17:30 Press Conference USA 18:05 News 18:10 America Views 18:30 Special English News & Features 19:00 News 19:10 Weekend 20:00 News 20:10 Close 20:30 Special English News & Features 21:00 Newsdesk/Music 21:30 Press Conference, USA 22:00 News 22:10 Music, USA Jazz 22:25 Editorial 22:55 Editorial 23:00 News 23:10 Communications Week 23:30 Weekend Magazine		MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in file per kg. Apple (French) .. 420 / 380 Apple (green) .. 470 / 400 Banana .. 330 / 300 Banana (Mukammal) .. 300 / 240 Beans (brown) .. 470 / 400 Cabbage .. 140 / 100 Carrot .. 250 / 200 Cauliflower .. 150 / 100 Couscous .. 200 / 180 Dates (local) .. 100 / 60 Eggplant (large) .. 260 / 200 Garlic .. 130 / 90 Grapefruit .. 130 / 90 Lemon .. 140 / 100 Mandarin .. 210 / 180 Marrow .. 140 / 100 Onion (green) .. 140 / 90 Onion (dry) .. 220 / 180 Oranges (Abu surra) .. 320 / 260 Oranges (Shamounat) .. 240 / 180 Pepper (black) .. 240 / 180 Pepper (white) .. 240 / 180 Potatoes .. 160 / 100 Radicchio .. 100 / 70 Spinach .. 150 / 100 Tomato .. 150 / 100 Turnip .. 100 / 60							

Another relief mission sends aid to Sudan

AMMAN (Petra) — Another relief mission has left Amman for Sudan carrying medical and other relief supplies for victims of famine and drought.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, was present at the Thursday departure to bid farewell to the mission which groups 10 specialists, a general practitioner, nurses, technicians and their assistants. They will be taking over for two months the duties of a team currently working at the Jordanian-built hospital at Kass, where medical services have been offered to the local population over the past three years.

Addressing the team, Prince Hassan expressed hope that Jordanian missions would form

the nucleus of an emergency task force, offering services to other parts of the Arab World. He urged the team to offer their best service to the Sudanese people to help alleviate their suffering.

The team is carrying nearly 15 tonnes of medical supplies for their work at Kass hospital, which was set up by the Jordanian National Committee for Solidarity with the Sudanese People.

The medical team is accompanied by a water engineer who will help in locating sites for drilling at least 10 artesian wells in the Kass region.

Among those bidding farewell to the medical mission were Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh and Sudanese Ambassador to Jordan Majdoun Radwan.

High-level Bulgarian delegation arrives today

AMMAN (J.T.) — A high-level Bulgarian delegation headed by First Vice President of the Bulgarian State Council Peter Tanchev arrives in Amman today for a three-day official visit, according to an embassy press release Friday.

The embassy statement said that Tanchev, who is also the leader of the Bulgarian Agrarian Party, the co-ruling party, will deliver a personal message to His Majesty King Hussein from Bulgarian State Council President Todor Zhivkov.

Jordan will be the first leg of a regional tour which will include Iraq and Egypt successively, the

statement said. Tanchev's talks with Jordanian officials will encompass issues of bilateral relations and prospects for their promotion and diversification. Opinions will be exchanged on the topical issues of the international situation and on the situation in the Middle East, the statement said.

Tanchev's visit to Jordan is the first on such a high level. Bilateral contacts are most active in the field of economy, as annual trade amounts to about \$20 million.

The delegation is composed of senior ministerial officials responsible for political and economic officials.

New stamp issue marks King's 'Man of Peace' award

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications will today issue its first commemorative stamp for 1988 entitled "King Hussein, Man of Peace of 1987." Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan announced here Friday.

The stamp marks the awarding of the Dag Hammarskjöld Award for Peace to His Majesty King Hussein in August, 1987.

The minister said that the awarding of the Dag Hammarskjöld Award to the King was a

noble expression of the world's appreciation of His Majesty's efforts towards establishing peace for humanity.

Haj Hassan said that the ministry would inform the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and the Arab Postal Union about the new commemorative stamp issue. The two unions will then distribute collections of the stamp to their member states.

The ministry has printed some 300,000 of the new issue, which consists of two denominations, both carrying the King's photo.

Indonesian youth minister departs after signing protocol

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Indonesia have signed a protocol on bilateral cooperation in youth and sports affairs.

The protocol signed Thursday, calls for exchange visits by sports and youth teams and scout groups, as well as cooperation in sports training.

The protocol followed talks here between Indonesian Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Abdul Ghafoor Edris and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

ter of Youth Affairs and Sports Abdul Ghafoor Edris and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

The two ministers who signed the protocol exchanged brief speeches, expressing hope for increased cooperation between the two countries in all sports and youth activities.

Following the signing ceremony, the Indonesian minister left for home.

Kuwaiti education minister leaves after touring schools

AMMAN (Petra) — Kuwaiti Minister of Education Anwar Abdullah Nouri has left Amman after ending his five-day visit to Jordan, during which he met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, and held talks with Minister of Higher Education Nassereddine Al Assad and Minister of Education Thouman Hindawi.

He also signed a programme for organising bilateral, cultural and educational cooperation in

the next two years.

On the last day of his visit, Nouri, accompanied by Hindawi, visited the International Baccalaureate School in Amman, where he was briefed on the school's development and educational programmes. He also visited the Polytechnic School in Marka, and reviewed its advanced vocational training programmes.

Upon his departure Thursday, Nouri was seen off by Hindawi and other officials.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Crown Prince attends prayers at Nuzah

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, attended Friday prayers at Al Mughira Ibn Shu'ba Mosque in Jabal Al Nuzah. The Crown Prince listened to a sermon which focused on the concept of honesty, and later shook hands with worshippers.

Outgoing S. Korean envoy honoured

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree has been issued, conferring the Medal of Independence of the First Order on South Korean Ambassador to Jordan Dong Soon Park, in recognition of his services at the end of his term of office here. Park who was appointed ambassador to Jordan in May 1985, has been transferred to another post at the South Korean Foreign Ministry. He will be succeeded by Taejin Park.

EC: Israel violated agreement

(Continued from page 1) the export of manufactured goods from a West Bank firm to Britain, he said.

A shipment of lingerie from Ramallah, properly certified as of West Bank origin by the local chamber of commerce, arrived at British customs with a document stating the origin as "Israel."

Britain reported the matter to the European Commission, which challenged Israel to explain

what it called this "severe case of fraudulent substitution," the EC official said.

The European parliament has twice delayed ratification of an EC-Israel finance protocol, lowering tariffs on exports such as cut flowers to take account of the entry of Spain and Portugal into the EC, on technical grounds which the Israelis contended were politically motivated.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Friday receives Roman Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem Michel Sabbah (Petra photo)

Jordan, EC agree on projects to be funded by \$120m protocol

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A delegation from the European Community (EC) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) will leave Amman for home today, winding up a week-long visit during which they signed an agreement covering Jordanian projects to be financed under a \$120-million protocol concluded last year.

The head of the EC delegation, Eberhard Rhein, and Ministry of Planning Secretary-General Ziyad Fariz signed the agreement which provides for grants, subsidised loans and risk capital for projects in agriculture, water resources and industry identified in Jordan's current \$10-billion five-year plan which began in 1986.

The agreement followed detailed discussions with Jordanian officials and is in implementation of the third protocol between the

EC and Jordan since 1977.

Under the agreement, the agricultural sector will benefit from approximately 40 per cent of the protocol's total funds, particularly water resource development projects.

Nearly 25 per cent of the funds will be devoted to the industrial sector for investment promotion, establishing industrial standards, mineral research and supporting industrial enterprises.

The remainder of the protocol's funds will support educational and scientific cooperation, energy development and other economic infrastructure.

"Jordan has proved to be a very efficient user of the EC's protocols, prompting us to sharply increase the volume of our financial and technical assistance to this country," said Rhein, who is the director of the Mediterranean, Middle East and Arab Department for the EC.

Addressing a press conference following the signing ceremony, Rhein said that it was hoped that the modest allocation for "risk capital" would stimulate venture capital schemes in Jordan.

Rhein paid tribute to EC-Jordan relations, and said he was impressed by the handling of the Jordanian economy and the loans that finance development projects in the country.

During his visit, Rhein said he met with Jordanian businessmen to explore areas for industrial cooperation between the EC and Jordan. He urged Jordan to diversify its agricultural products sold in European markets, and said that lowering produce prices could ensure a more competitive position for Jordan in EC markets, as well as help adjust the balance of trade, which is now in favour of Europe.

The delegation Friday visited Petra and other sites in the south.

Crown Prince, patriarch of Jerusalem stress need to bolster interfaith dialogue

AMMAN (Agencies) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Friday received newly-appointed Roman Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem Michel Sabbah, who arrived here from occupied Jerusalem, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The Crown Prince and Sabbah stressed the need to strengthen the dialogue between Muslims and Christians, according to Reuters.

"The two had a brief chat and made positive remarks on the need to strengthen the Christian-Muslim dialogue," a Roman Catholic church spokesman said, quoted by Reuters.

The meeting at the Plaza Hotel was attended by Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouman Hindawi, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin, Minister of Waqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani and senior officials.

Sabbah arrived here from the

occupied West Bank via King Hussein Bridge on his first trip to Jordan since his appointment last month.

During his week-long visit, Patriarch Sabbah, the first Arab to hold this post, will meet with senior Jordanian officials.

The Patriarch of Jerusalem was received upon arrival by the Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, who was deputising for His Majesty King Hussein, and Sheikh Khayyat, deputising for Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, as well as other officials, parliamentarians and Muslim and Christian leaders.

Hundreds of Christians were also at hand to greet the 54-year-old Palestinian upon his arrival at the Marj Al Hamam suburb of Amman.

Prince Ra'd welcomed Patriarch Sabbah, congratulated him on his new post, and wished him continuing success in his mission.

Sabbah, in a statement to Petra, said that he came from the occupied territories where the Palestinian people were enjoying high morale despite the plight they were facing. He also expressed his hope that comprehensive and just peace would prevail in the region.

During the welcoming ceremony Deputy Daoud Suleiman Daoud, chairman of the Occupied Territories Affairs Committee of the Lower House of Parliament, delivered a speech in which he welcomed Patriarch Sabbah as the first Palestinian Arab Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem. "It was a wise decision by Pope John Paul II to select you as head of the Jerusalem Patriarchate," Daoud said.

The decision, he added, came at a time when the Palestinians in the occupied territories were facing the most brutal and oppressive measures at the hands of the Israeli occupation authorities.

Mu'ta University to expand facilities

By Elia Nasrallah Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Mu'ta University near Karak expects the number of students enrolled in its civilian wing to increase to 3,000 from 700 in the next three years, and has made plans to expand its facilities to cope with the increase. Mu'ta University President Ali Mahaznah said Friday. He told the Jordan Times that

a contract signed Thursday with a local construction firm provided for the construction of administration buildings and a library, in addition to water, electricity and telephone networks and other basic services for the civilian wing.

A local company, Ziyad Salah Establishment, won the JD 8.5-million contract for carrying out the project which should be completed in 30 months.

The funds for the project will come from the university's fiscal budgets over the next three years, and no loans or external aid are expected to be involved, Mahaznah noted.

He said that the university's 1988 budget was JD 11 million, up from JD 9 million in the 1987 fiscal year. According to Mahaznah, the allocated funds are normally spent on running both the civilian and the military wings,

Newly-established clinic and shelter to rescue ailing horses at Petra

By Meg Abu Hamdan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Anyone who has visited Petra in recent years cannot have helped feeling more than a little sorry for some of the 287 ponies that take the tourists down the Siq.

Often, badly shod and sometimes thin, tired and worn out, these horses, in between rides, stand all day under the beating sun without the benefit of shade and with little access to water.

This sad state of affairs, however, will not continue for much longer; for in its final stages of construction is a clinic and shelter established by the Brooke Hospital for Animals, a London-based charity.

Designed by local artist and architect Ali Jabri, the small, unobtrusive group of buildings that make up the clinic and shelter have been constructed out of local stone, thus allowing the structure to blend in completely with its magnificent surroundings.

The clinic itself consists of a treatment room, a room for the veterinarians and medicine and a farrier's shop. Behind the clinic are two boxes for any cases which need to stay for treatment or observation. The shelters are grouped around the clinic so that the resident vet can check all the horses on a daily basis.

Organising Secretary of the Brooke Hospital Richard Seagrath says, "There will be no escape for the less cooperative owners, as horses will be actually hired from the shelter area; if an owner does not leave his horse at the shelter, it cannot be hired." "All in all," Seagrath continued, "this is a most exciting project, as its potentially controllable nature should allow us to bring all the horses up to a very reasonable standard."

A blacksmith, fully trained at the Royal Stables, will be resident at the clinic, as well as a specially trained vet. The medicine, vaccines and X-ray facilities have all been provided by the Brooke Hospital, and treatment will be free to those who cannot afford to pay; and to those who can, a small, nominal, subsidised fee will be charged. The Ministry of Agriculture clinic behind Wadi Musa will still operate, providing care for the various animals in the whole area.

The official opening of the clinic is planned for March 1988 when Her Royal Highness Princess Alia, who has been greatly involved in the clinic's establishment and for whom the clinic will be named, will judge a parade of all the horses.

This idea is based on a successful scheme started in Luxor, Egypt where the Brooke also has a clinic, in which the owners of carriage horses that qualify for the best-kept horse win small monetary prizes, while the first prize winners receive magnificent new harnesses. Much sought after, these prizes generate enthusiasm to keep the horses in good

condition; and it is hoped that the horse parade in Petra will produce the same response.

The initial idea to set up a clinic in Petra came from several directions simultaneously — from Princess Alia, from director of Antiquities at Petra Inyazi Chaban, and from Brooke. Through cooperation between these parties, the scheme came to fruition much quicker than anyone could have hoped.

One of the representatives from Brooke, who came in 1986 to make an initial report for the charity on the state of equines in general throughout the country and especially in Petra, Ms. Chris Larter, is now resident in Jordan. Once the clinic starts functioning, Larter will be making fortnightly visits to Petra to report on the clinic's progress for the Brooke Hospital in England.

Larter, who recently won an award for her outstanding achievements in the field of equine welfare from the Horseres and Ponies' Protection Association, also hopes to help set up a Jordanian society for the prevention of cruelty to animals. Encouraging the evolution of this project is Her Royal Highness Princess Zein, who has offered to have the society under her patronage.

Also supporting the proposed project is the Society for the Protection of Animals in North Africa (SPAN), which has sent a representative, Dr.



A tired and worn-out horse waiting for tourists at Petra

Andrew Higgins, to discuss the project with the ministry. SPANA has offered to provide a mobile equine welfare unit (a converted Landrover), stocked with blankets, suitable dressings and medications, which would

tour the northern half of the country with two or three specially-trained vets. SPANA would operate the unit for a number of years, to be taken over at a later date by the Jordanian prevention of cruelty to animals society, if it is indeed established.

Larter hopes that the society would also help to establish eventually a cat and dog pound in Amman which would deal with the ongoing problem of stray animals. Having helped set up a similar project in Greece, Larter is convinced that it can work: "All the stray animals could be collected up and kept in the pounds until the owner or a new home is found. If neither is forthcoming, then some of the animals could be neutered and released again in order to prevent the increase in vermin; and others could be humanely put down. I believe that with a little outside help and funding, it can be done here."

"What is also very important is education," Larter continued. "Young children must be told that kittens and puppies are living beings, and like themselves, they feel pain. I am fully aware that there are many human problems in the Middle East." Larter concluded, "but that does not alter the fact that dogs and cats exist and have to be cared for."

Larter, who began her career as a groom to many famous British showjumpers and then operated her own horse-transporting business, collecting and delivering all over Europe, has been involved with animal welfare since 1978, when she first became aware of the atrocities committed by those responsible for the transportation of livestock. After finding Yugoslavian horses dead and injured on a train at Modene on the French-Italian border, Larter reported the incident to the International League for the Protection of Horses, which after a full investigation, made some improvements.

Since then, Larter has been sent on many welfare trips not only for the International League for the Protection of Horses, but also for the Greek Animal Welfare Fund and for the Brooke Hospital, which, as well as the Middle East tour, has sent Larter to Japan and Australia.

It was in Australia that Larter discovered brumby shooting — a particularly barbaric method of killing wild horses. The horses are shot because farmers believe they compete for food with their cattle and sheep. A helicopter is used as the most efficient way of scouring the outback, but as it is not possible to kill cleanly from such an unstable mode of transport the horses often die from serious injuries.

Larter's untiring campaign against the shooting of humpies, like the many campaigns she has waged before, particularly in England where she has helped bring about changes in legislation in the transport and sale of livestock, will hopefully produce results. Her energy and dedication to her cause will also be of great help now that she is resident here in Jordan.



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الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. تأسست 1975.

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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Successful talks

IN an interview with French television, channel two, King Hussein called the world's attention to the current rebellion in the occupied Arab land against Israel's oppression and said that oppression and Israel's intransigence were responsible for the turbulent situation in the Middle East. The monarch also said that U.S. support and the American administration's policy in our region were not serving the cause of peace nor the interest of the United States, the Israelis or the Arabs. As the King spoke the presidential palace in Paris issued a renewed statement reaffirming France's total support for an international conference to deal with the Middle East question, and bring about a lasting peace. The statement was an immediate reaction to the King's talks with President Mitterrand. The French support for the conference coupled with the Vatican's favourable views in support of justice in the Holy Land are bound to give real momentum to the peace process; and they reflect the positive outcome of the King's talks with the Pope and the French president. As the world continues to give the Arabs more and more support for their quest, the Israelis tend to be more intransigent and more adamant to their condemned position.

Al Dustour: France supports peace

THE French president's statements in support of an international conference on the Middle East reflect his deep understanding of the situation in the area and the need for re-establishing a lasting peace and justice. The French position is clearly directed against Israel's expansionist aims and objectives and against the continued repressive measures imposed on our people. This honourable French stand which was reaffirmed in the wake of King Hussein's visit to Paris and his talks with President Mitterrand is a reflection of the European Community's stand which supports the cause of justice and peace. This stand is a far contrast from that of the United States which offers unlimited support to Israel and encouragement for oppression and arbitrary rule against the Arab people. Washington's total bias towards the Israeli aggression was recently displayed to the whole world through the U.S. veto of a U.N. Security Council resolution that would have condemned Israel's actions and inhuman practices. King Hussein's tour of European countries has thus yielded excellent results and succeeded in enlisting very strong support for the Arab cause from European nations in the face of continued Israeli intransigence and U.S. support for Israeli practices and policies.

Sawt Al Shaab: King warns of dangers

KING Hussein warned in a French television interview of the serious consequences of continued American support for Israel which opposes peace and justice. He also warned against the danger inherent in Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's threats and provocative measures represented in the construction of more Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territory. The King reiterated the Arab Nation's offer to Israel: A swap of land for peace, and said that all Arab territory occupied since 1967 should be returned so that all countries in the Middle East can enjoy peace based on justice. The King appealed to the European Community countries to exercise pressure on the U.S. administration to change its position with regard to the idea of an international conference and on Israel to force it to succumb to the will of the international community, and accept the principles of a lasting peace. The King who is touring Europe, advocating peace and justice for the Middle East, is aiming at ending 40 years of unrest and wars in our region; and Europe is the best arena for advocating such cause in view of its countries' long experience of the tragedies and the disasters resulting from conflicts.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Murphy is coming

THE United States has decided to dispatch an envoy to the Middle East on a rather peculiar mission which is bound to end in failure. Reports have said that Richard Murphy was planning to visit the area to advocate a proposal for holding local elections in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip with the purpose of choosing representatives of the Palestinian people with whom the U.S. administration might talk on means of finding a solution for the Palestine problem. The proposal simply means dividing the Palestinians and drawing a wedge between them and their legitimate representative: the PLO, and so containing the current uprising of the Arab people against Israel. This of course implies ignoring the idea of an international conference that can bring about a just settlement to the problem. The Palestinian people will never be taken in by this American trick, and they will never be dissuaded by such suspect offers from pursuing their struggle for freedom. At the same time, Jordan will never abandon the Palestinians in their present plight and will continue to struggle for convening the international peace conference; and will adhere to the role of the PLO, the representative of the Palestinian people. The U.S. administration which vetoed the latest U.N. Security Council resolution that would have condemned Israel's actions cannot be expected to offer a favourable offer to the Arabs, and the Palestinians. The Arabs should be on their guard against dangerous elements in the new U.S. proposals brought to the region by Richard Murphy whose aim is to destroy the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom.

Al Dustour: Differing stands

KING Hussein's statements in Paris on Wednesday reflect Jordan's satisfaction with the French government's role in the Middle East and the question of the international conference. The statements which followed the King's meetings with French President Francois Mitterrand also manifested the Arab Nation's bitterness at the U.S. veto of a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Israel's inhuman practices. As the King said in his statements to reporters this veto implies encouragement for Israel's practices against our brothers in the occupied Arab territory. It is quite strange to see the U.S. vetoing the resolution at a time when we hear reports about a decision in Washington to dispatch a U.S. envoy to the Middle East carrying new ideas for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and bringing about peace to the region. It is as though the U.S. is not aware of the realities in our region and the Israeli atrocities which have been practiced on the Arabs for the past 20 years.



M. Kahl - Middle East

The deadly silence:

The absence of debate on the Middle East in U.S. elections

The following is the first part of a study by Dr. James Zaghy, director of the Washington-based Arab American Institute. Parts 2 and 3 will appear in Sunday's and Monday's issues of the Jordan Times.

IN A DEMOCRACY, most major policy issues, whether foreign or domestic, are decided or at least influenced by public debate. Especially in an election year, this dynamic unfolds through candidate debates, public forums, opinion polls, and finally, in the voting booth. This process of democratic debate has established a system of checks and balances which acts as a corrective, even on the most fundamental of levels. This is particularly true with those critical questions of policy which require broad public support for implementation or resolution. We have all seen this dynamic at work in such major areas of public policy as equal rights for black Americans and women, the Vietnam war, the nuclear arms race, and U.S. policy towards South Africa and Central America.

There is, however, one issue of national importance that has not been debated, until now, in a presidential election. It is the direction of U.S. policy in the Middle East.

This is a profoundly disturbing fact, in light of both our interests and deep involvement in the Middle East and the real dangers to world peace that exist in this critical part of the world.

There are, at present, over 40,000 U.S. military personnel stationed throughout the Middle East. In the past five years more than 300 Americans were killed in combat situations in the Middle East, more than in any other part of the world.

In the past ten years, over two-thirds of all U.S. military and foreign assistance (\$50 billion) has gone to the Middle East. Over 90 per cent of this \$50 billion has been Israel— or Camp David-related aid.

Two-thirds of all the world's known oil reserves are located in the Middle East. Once taken for granted, these resources are at risk today due to the continued Iran-Iraq war.

Given these factors alone, it would seem that U.S. Middle East policy should be a central issue in the public debate. This would seem even more likely in view of the dramatic, and at times tragic, setbacks the U.S. has suffered in the Middle East during recent years.

But, in every national election — up until the present one — there has not been a public debate on U.S. Middle East policy. In 1984, for example, President Ronald Reagan and Democratic candidate Walter Mondale did not debate or even discuss the Middle East, despite the fact that the U.S. had suffered repeated setbacks in that region during Reagan's first term. During the period 1980-84:

— Israel, using U.S. weapons in violation of U.S. law, bombed Iraq and invaded Lebanon with massive force;

— The United States took sides in the Lebanese civil war and became involved, for the first time, in a shooting war in the Middle East when the USS New Jersey fired shells at villages in the Shouf Mountains;

— the U.S. Navy became involved in additional military confrontations with Libya and Syria.

By 1984, U.S.-Arab relations were at an all-time low. Not only U.S. Marines, but American civilians and businesses as well became the targets of retaliation for the U.S. attacks on civilian villages in Lebanon and the U.S.'s economic and diplomatic support for Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

With the U.S. in such a precarious position in the Middle East during the 1984 elections, it is surprising that no Democratic candidate examined the Middle East issue, with the exception of former Senator George McGovern and Rev. Jesse Jackson. When the other Democratic

candidates discussed the Middle East at all, they did so in a simplistic manner — condemning the terrorism which was a symptom of our failed policy or pledging unconditional support for Israel.

At no time in the final election was President Reagan called to account for U.S. setbacks in the Middle East.

The result of this absence of real debate is that U.S. Middle East policy is not subject to the checks and balances of public scrutiny; nor are candidates and office holders held accountable for their policies regarding the Middle East.

The press avoids the issues, too. This review of presidential elections cannot be complete without a word about the role of the press, for the press also shares some responsibility for the failure of the candidates to deal with the Middle East.

Particularly during presidential elections, the press is entrusted with the role of interlocutor for public debate. It is the press that has access to the candidates, moderates the debates, and conducts in-depth interviews with the presidential aspirants.

The U.S. press has reported responsibly on most crises that have occurred in the Middle East in the past seven years, and editorial and op-ed pages of leading newspapers have carried genuine and substantial debates over the conduct of U.S. Middle East policy.

However, this scrutiny and eagerness to debate policy has not carried over into the electoral arena.

coming of Christ;

— Senator Paul Simon's position on the PLO, which has radically shifted during the campaign from one advocating dialogue to one favouring the closure of their U.S. offices;

— Former Secretary of State Alexander Haig's collaboration in Israel's invasion of Lebanon; and

— Vice President George Bush's involvement in the Iran arms scandal.

None of these issues have been pursued in candidate interviews or televised debates.

Public wants debate. Today, there is no American consensus on our Middle East policy. While Congress and the

Senate favour a neutral U.S. policy in the region, favouring neither Israel nor the Arab countries ("U.S. Attitudes on the Middle East," Ibid.).

At the same time, major institutions, such as the Presbyterian Church, the Methodist Church, the United Church of Christ, and Black, Hispanic, and peace organisations, have adopted positions calling for a change in U.S. policies, including support for Palestinian statehood and negotiations with the PLO.

Debate needed to reach peace. 1988 is a critical election year. The absence of an incumbent, coupled with the number of candidates seeking both the Republican and Democratic nominations, ensures that on most critical issues a public debate will develop. This should also be true of the Middle East issue.

In the past 20 years, the United States has spent more money, sent more weapons, lost more lives, and had more hostages taken in the Middle East than in any other part of the world.

By any set of objective standards, the U.S. has failed to play a creative role in bringing peace to the region. We need to have a full and open debate on U.S. policy in the Middle East — and we need it now more than ever.

In an effort to begin a much-needed debate, AAI has prepared this preliminary report on the Middle East positions of all the major candidates for the Republican and Democratic parties' presidential nominations.

It is our hope that by focusing greater attention on the candidates' positions, scrutiny and debate will begin.

600 Israeli academics demand occupation end

The following article is reprinted from the Israeli newspaper, The Jerusalem Post.

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — More than 600 of Israel's top academics, including a former president of Hebrew University and an Israel Prize winner, have joined a campaign to end the occupation of the territories.

The professors have signed a strongly-worded petition expressing "deep concern" over Israel's future, and they warn that "no solution is possible" while it maintains control of Gaza and the West Bank.

Among the signatories are Shmuel Eisenstadt, one of the world's leading sociologists; former Hebrew University president Dan Patinkin; sociologist Yona Rosenfeld; writers Amos Oz and A.B. Yehoshua; historian Shmuel Etlinger; and Israel Prize winning economist Menahem Ya'ari.

The document was published Friday in several daily newspapers, and is the curtain raiser to a campus campaign including "teachings" in all Israeli universities.

The petition calls on the government to "re-evaluate" its policy and emphasises the connection between escalating violence in the territories and the "diplomatic freeze of the past 20 years."

It continues: "There is no solution to the situation in which Israel is caught, as long as the

imposed control of the Arab population in the territories continues."

The use of power to enforce law and order is a way of ignoring the roots of the problem, it continues. And it warns that burdening the army with the task of policing the territories is preventing it from carrying out its main task: The defence of the country.

"We cannot accept that young conscripts find themselves trapped in a situation in which they have to open fire on young people and civilians because of the unwillingness of the government to deal with the deep roots of the problem," say the professors.

They continue: "This situation is unacceptable morally and diplomatically. We call on the government to immediately take steps that will lead to diplomatic negotiations, before they lose all control of the situation."

Law professor Mordechai Kremnitzer, one of the organisers of the campaign, said that signatures had come from all over Israel, including the Hebrew University, Beersheba University, Haifa University, Tel Aviv University and the Weizmann Institute.

This is "the biggest campaign of its kind" ever launched by Israeli academics, he said. "It results from a deep feeling of frustration and the belief that without political change, the situation can only get worse."

King concludes talks in Paris

(Continued from page 1)

adding that the ongoing Palestinian uprising "has created new realities."

He said that the Palestinians in the occupied territories, having lost hope in the ability of Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to restore their rights, resorted to the current uprising.

He warned Israel that its continued opposition to convening an international peace conference on the Middle East was bound to lead to disaster because "the revolt of stones and sticks could develop and escalate into a very dangerous situation that threatens the entire region."

The King stressed that Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem, was a prerequisite for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Jerusalem is not a political toy. Jerusalem is important for the three major religions and

should be made the essence of peace," the King said.

The King expressed hope that obstacles in the way of convening the proposed conference would be removed "before it is too late."

The King said: "It is quite clear that Israel has a great influence on decisionmakers in the United States. This, unfortunately, is a reality..."

"But on the other hand," the King added, "one expects that a superpower such as the United States would realise that it has interests and responsibilities and that it faces duties. We hope this will be realised before it is too late."

The King said Jordan insisted on an invitation to the PLO to attend the international conference, "provided it accepts what we have all accepted."

The King said he expected the European Community and the world to "exercise moral pressure in the interest of all countries in the region."

Regent urges bridging gap

(Continued from page 1)

ness (of Palestinians); confronting the occupation and liberating the land — without proper knowledge of the intricacies and contents of the issues at hand."

The Crown Prince pointed out to the alienation of the Palestinian population in the occupied territories due to division in political ranks on the outside and Israel's policies of exploiting these divisions. Prince Hassan was referring to divisions within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the discrepancies in stands of Arab states.

He said Israel has repeatedly attempted to sow the seeds of division within and without the occupied territories, including a separation between Palestinians under Israeli rule after the 1948 war and Palestinians in the territories occupied during the 1967

Arab-Israeli war.

"We need to reconsider our assessment of issues and estimation of events in an objective manner as thinkers and analysts and to sincerely address the conscience of our citizens who, every day, bleed to the tragic sight relayed by the media of the suffering of Palestinians under Israeli occupation."

He noted that Israel was attempting "to spoil the image of the innocent and spontaneous Palestinian struggle and sacrifice."

Arabs on the outside should not try to attribute the uprising to themselves, he said.

"The responsibilities of our intellectuals and media people is great, in the way of clarifying and analysing the situation. We are in a bad need for the gathering of all sincere and enlightened forces" the Crown Prince concluded.

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AN ISLAND FOR AN ISLAND: Aboriginal protester Burum Burum, an actor-writer who travelled from Australia to England to claim the country for the Aborigines, plants the red, yellow and black Aboriginal flag near the cliffs of Dover. Burum, wearing tribal paint, said: "In

claiming this land, we wish our neighbours no harm." He said he was ridiculing the idea of a country being claimed by a group of people. His protest coincided with Australia's 200th birthday celebrations in Sydney.

The other Australians

All kinds of jollifications are planned as Australia starts its bicentennial year. But for some — the original inhabitants — there is little to celebrate. Chris Sherwell reports on a sour note among the festivities.

SYDNEY — As celebrations of Australia's 200th anniversary of white settlement move into top gear, the appalling fate of the country's indigenous Aborigines is coming under intense scrutiny. To judge by accounts abroad, it is the only bicentennial story. Here is a rich country of 16 million people celebrating 200 years while 225,000 Aborigines, among the poorest people in the world, can trace their origins back 40,000 years.

At home, the issue has become inescapable as aboriginal groups have mounted vocal protests at important bicentennial functions and insisted that, for them, there is nothing to celebrate.

In sympathy, the federal minister responsible for aboriginal affairs, himself white, is boycotting the celebration organised by his own government.

Another minister has said Australians have to face up to the shame of their past before they can celebrate the glory of the last 200 years. Even Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, whose government barely acknowledged the aboriginal issue when re-elected six months ago, has spoken of the "crimes of the past" and foreshadowed a "compact" with the aboriginal people.

Like all collisions between race and politics, however, the aboriginal issue in Australia is far from simple. For a start, Aborigines are a diverse group of communities and peoples, living in cities and open country all over Australia.

It is young urbanised aboriginal radicals who have worked to co-ordinate public protests against the bicentennial. The protests include marches, noisy demonstrations and displays of slogans and flags. They are intended to be peaceful but embarrassing.

The radicals' individual spokesmen are mostly self-appointed and acknowledge that they represent themselves as much as their people. They disagree with each other, with Aborigines who have "made it" and with traditional leaders in the Outback.

Indeed, a range of different aboriginal groups has readily accepted government money — not least from the Australian Bicentennial Authority itself — to advance their more immediate interests.

The most notable example is the assistance, worth more than \$2.5 million (U.S.\$1.8 million), given to the Alice Springs-based aboriginal enterprise called Imparja to secure a commercial television licence broadcasting programmes to the Northern Territory and South Australia. The station began transmission last month.

Another \$350,000 grant went to the colorful Burum Burum to write a traveller's guide on aboriginal Australia. He flew

to Britain recently and, on Australia Day, read a declaration on the white cliffs of Dover that he is taking possession of England on behalf of the aboriginal peoples.

Accusations regarding poor aboriginal living conditions have come thick and fast. Page one of the annual report of the federal government's Department of Aboriginal Affairs states bluntly that aboriginals are the most disadvantaged people in Australian society.

It goes on to say that life expectancy is 20 years less than that for other Australians, infant mortality is nearly three times that for non-aboriginal Australians, and 32 per cent of aboriginal children up to the age of nine have some form of trachoma.

In addition, aboriginal unemployment is six times the national average, income for those employed is only half that of other Australians, most aboriginals live in sub-standard housing or temporary shelter and imprisonment rates are 20 times higher than those for other Australians.

There are also social problems among Aborigines like glue sniffing and alcoholism, not to mention the outright racial prejudice they regularly experience at the hands of whites.

The unexplained but well-publicised contagion of aboriginal jail suicides — about 100 since 1980 — has led to the establishment of a Royal Commission which is certain to look beyond the individual cases.

Australians appreciate that none of this looks good when billions of dollars are being

lavished on bicentennial celebrations and projects. The government also knows that its embarrassment can be (and is) exploited by countries like South Africa, France and the Soviet Union.

In fact much has been achieved since 1967, when Aborigines were belatedly given equal citizenship and allowed to vote.

One illustration is in the growing numbers of Aborigines in government, the professions and business. Another is to be found in aboriginal children's schooling.

The most tangible progress is to be seen in the Northern Territory, which is administered by the Federal government. There, land rights legislation has so far given Aborigines title to more than one-third of the land. Aborigines run their own land councils, legal and medical services, schools and radio (and now television) station.

As most of the territory's production comes from aboriginal-owned land, revenues from royalties are being ploughed into business — arts and crafts, tourist ventures, hotels and shops.

The lessons for Australia's six slow-moving and often short-sighted state governments are plain — land rights have provided a psychological, cultural and economic base from which the aboriginal community can recover their lost esteem, sense of identity and self-reliance.

That is why the federal government's recent talk of a "compact", and in particular its formal recognition last month that Aborigines were dispossessed of their land when the whites arrived, is so important.

Currently the legal position in Australia is that, pre-1788, the land was terra nullius — it belonged to no one. If that doctrine is abandoned in favour of a notion of conquest, it will remove continuing obstacles in relation to land rights and compensation.

For now the precise thinking behind the government's move remains unclear. The "compact" has not been explained in detail, and the recognition of dispossession is only contained in a preamble to legislation yet to be passed — legislation which, incidentally, will set up a new Aboriginal Commission with elected representatives in place of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

For their part, the conservative opposition parties have said they dislike the way Aborigines are being singled out as a race apart. They argue that Aborigines should be treated like any other Australians.

In fact most Westernised people are under numerous misapprehensions about the best way forward for the country's aboriginal people. What is indisputable, as the rise of aboriginal activism makes plain, is that progress remains too slow.

It should therefore be no surprise that Australia's bicentennial is providing a perfect occasion to promote a cause and to purge a conscience. The worry is that, without better understanding, stronger will and concrete action, it will all amount to nothing — Financial Times feature.

JTV Channel 2 Preview

Sat. — Feb. 6, 1988

8:30 Married with Children
But I didn't Shoot the Deputy

Like any red-blooded American, when Al hears a strange sound in the night, he springs to the defence of his home and family and accidentally shoots the neighbour's dog.

9:00 Variety Show

10:20 French Feature Film

Starring:
Gerard Lanvin
Michel Piccoli

Francois, an unemployed worker, tries to improve his economic situation by winning the 100 thousand francs prize offered by C.T.V. for his participation in adventure programme where his chances of survival are very slim.

Sun. — Feb. 7, 1988

8:30 Farrington of the F.O.
Too Damned Hot

The consulate is in turmoil when Harriet's house guest, the recently divorced Sarah, develops more than a passing fancy for the Major.

9:10 Doc. — Australia
Part 2

Australia Will be There

One of Australia's most popular historical writers, Patty Adam Smith, covers the period from the end of the last century to the late 1940s, during which time — through two World Wars — Australia developed from six distant colonies into maturity and nationhood.

10:20 Secret Army

Mon. — Feb. 8, 1988

8:30 Are You Being Served

9:10 Vanity Fair
Part 2

Becky takes a position as humble

governess in the house of Sir Pitt Crawley with whom she ingratiates herself so successfully that, when his wife dies, he proposes....

10:20 Feature Film
Teddy

Starring:
Kimber Shoop as Teddy Kennedy Jr.
Craig T. Nelson as Edward Kennedy.
Susan Blakely as Joan Kennedy.

The powerful story of Teddy Kennedy Jr., the remarkable son of Senator Edward Kennedy. Teddy's childhood is made up of school, friends, boating and, of course, football. His young world collapses when cancer is discovered, and only alternative to save his life is amputation of his leg. Refusing to surrender, Teddy confronts his handicap and turns tragedy into challenge. "Teddy" is an unforgettable profile in courage.

Tue. — Feb. 9, 1988

8:30 Martin Luther King

9:30 Executive Stress

Caroline is impressed by Donald's handling of a tricky situation in the boardroom. And his speech to the staff about loyalty is most effective. However, she soon has cause to accuse him of gross hypocrisy!

10:20 The Equalizer

One of Australia's most popular historical writers, Patty Adam Smith, covers the period from the end of the last century to the late 1940s, during which time — through two World Wars — Australia developed from six distant colonies into maturity and nationhood.

By Granville Watts
Reuter

ATHENS — Athens Mayor Miltiades Evert is known as "the bulldozer" not so much for his costly build but for an ability to crash through government bureaucracy and get things done quickly.

When the government dragged its feet about permitting independent radio stations in Greece last

11:10 Three's Company

Wed. — Feb. 10, 1988

8:30 Charles in Charge

9:00 Doc. — Well Being
Poison in the System

In Britain, toxic waste dumping is often sloppy and dangerous and ill-effects on people's health are slowly emerging. In America, sickness caused by careless hazardous waste disposal is already rife. Well Being went to 3 countries in New Jersey, the garden state of America and sees how the contamination of water, air, land and sea is dramatically affecting people's lives.

9:30 Alfred Hitchcock
Presents...

10:20 Hold the Dream
A new four part mini-series

Starring:
Jenny Seagrove
Stephen Collins

The story of Emma Harter and her grand-daughter Paula McGill Fairley. Emma's favourite, and chosen heir to the mighty Harter-McGill empire, Paula it is who most clearly resembles that extraordinary matriarch of the dynasty. Accomplished, beautiful, a millionaire, Paula wields immense power at the age of 25; yet the conflicts, the tragedies, the loves and losses that afflict her, mirror those in Emma's life. Set in Yorkshire, London, New York and Texas, in great country

homes, luxurious penthouses, the boardrooms of the privileged, this is the story of one woman's determination to "hold the dream" which was entrusted to her, and in so doing to find the happiness and passion which is her legacy. Brilliant, sweeping and moving, Hold the Dream is a passionate and all-involving mini series.

Thur. — Feb. 11, 1988

8:30 Martin Luther King
(Last part)

9:10 Rags to Riches

10:20 Feature Film
When Dreams Come True

Starring:
Clody Williams
David Morse

The story of a woman who dreams a lot. Many of her dreams come true especially those pertaining to murder crimes, which happened in her town. She meets a young artist who becomes a friend of hers. She suspects him to be the murderer.

Fri. — Feb. 12, 1988

8:30 Growing Pains

9:10 Magnum

10:20 Falcon Crest

11:10 Some Mothers do Have Them

Defiant Athens mayor vows to bring in independent TV

By Granville Watts
Reuter

ATHENS — Athens Mayor Miltiades Evert is known as "the bulldozer" not so much for his costly build but for an ability to crash through government bureaucracy and get things done quickly.

When the government dragged its feet about permitting independent radio stations in Greece last

June, Evert set one up anyway and defied the authorities to stop him.

A recent survey showed that Athens Radio, run by Evert's city council in competition with the state-run Ert Radio Service, attracts more than 50 per cent of Athenian listeners and is already making a profit from advertising.

Now Evert, a 48-year-old leading figure in the main opposition conservative New Democracy Party, wants to introduce independent television in Greece.

This is despite repeated statements by the Socialist government of Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu that TV services are the sole responsibility of the state-run Ert network and the time is not yet ready for independent television.

"No government can stop technology. When I feel the psychological climate is ready then we will bring in TV even if we are against the law," Evert told Reuters.

"It will be set up here and let us leave the doors and pull it down if they want. But it will not be easy," he added.

The government last month sent riot police from Athens to the northern city of Salonika to demolish a radio antenna set up

by the Mayor Sotiris Kouvelas, a party colleague of Evert's.

The antenna, intended to give wider range to independent Salonika Radio, was pulled down on the grounds that it infringed local laws because it was in a forested area.

"It was just another government harassment. I think they wanted to do the same thing to our antenna on Lycabettus hill in the centre of Athens but they feared the protest would have been too big," Evert said.

Returning to his bid to introduce independent TV, Evert declared: "Three years from now we will laugh at what we are arguing about today since technology will give us the capability to have unlimited TV access from abroad."

Some hotels and a limited number of wealthy Greeks who are bored with the two state-run TV channels have already installed dish satellites enabling them to pick up European services.

"If we do not provide what the people want, more and more will be getting their own satellite dishes. Greece is not a rich country, why should we spend this money when we can have our own station?" he asked.

Britain set to turn back clock on 1960s abortion law

By Andrew Gumbel
Reuter

LONDON — Britain has begun to turn the clock back on its liberal abortion law, passed in the 1960s during a sociological revolution which also reformed laws on divorce and homosexuality.

Parliament, ignoring the pleas of women's rights groups, approved in principle a bill which would reduce the time limit for abortions to 18 weeks of pregnancy from 28.

The bill has several other stages to go through before it becomes law but the unexpectedly large support it received from MPs worried its opponents, who saw it as the biggest challenge yet to the 1967 Abortion Act.

The breakthrough, after a number of unsuccessful previous attempts to restrict the availability of abortions, has come at a time when the conservative government is legislating to control school teaching on homosexuality.

Anti-abortion groups hailed the abortion vote as "a victory for compassion." Opponents voiced fears that a harsher law would lead to an increase in the birth of handicapped babies and a return to back street abortions.

The sponsor of the bill is David Alton, an earnest Roman Catholic bachelor who belongs to the small opposition Liberal Party. One irony is that the current law is the work of another one-man campaign by David Steel who is now the Liberal leader.

Alton's opponents hope to force through amendments to his bill during coming committee hearings which might make the time limit 24 weeks instead of 18. But Alton, who is a staunch opponent of all abortion, said his majority of 45 was bigger than expected and made him unwilling to make concessions.

Alton's bill is the fourth to be approved by parliament at this stage since the 1967 act. The previous three were all quashed

in committee or killed by procedural delays.

Divided public

Public opinion on a tightening of abortion legislation seems to be more divided than ever. A recent poll conducted for The Independent newspaper showed people divided equally between favouring restriction and wanting to keep the law as it is.

Many politicians including Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher believe the present 28-week upper limit is too high.

Under the 1967 act, a woman may seek termination of her pregnancy up to that time if she can convince two doctors that her physical or mental health is at substantial risk.

In practice however, very few abortions — only 29 in 1986 — take place after the 24th week, the limit favoured by leading medical associations.

Opponents of the bill say late abortions are inevitable because of the need to see two doctors and find a hospital that is willing to perform the operation. Many hospitals do not allow abortions after 12 weeks, and doctors and nurses are entitled by law to refuse to take part in them.

3 million abortions

Alton supporters are shocked at the three million abortions carried out legally since 1967. More than 172,000 were performed in 1986, of which over 8,000 were after 18 weeks.

Pro-choice activists are worried that the women most affected by the bill would be those with least recourse to help.

These include teenagers frightened to admit to anyone including themselves that they are pregnant women near menopause who do not realise they are pregnant rape victims and foreign women who come to Britain because of restrictive laws in their own countries.

Government figures show that 38 per cent of women having late

abortions are under 20. A family planning organisation for young people described parliament's backing for the bill as "highly irresponsible at a time when family planning services are faced with increasing cuts."

Dustbin of Europe

In 1986, 40 per cent of abortions at or over 18 weeks were carried out on foreign women, more than a third on women from countries where abortion is illegal.

Alton supporters who said during the debate that Britain is becoming the "foetal dustbin of Europe" were countered by accusations that the bill was insensitive to the plight of foreign women.

"Women who need abortions do not travel to England to have them because they want to. They do so because they have to,"

gynaecologist Dr. Wendy Savage, who was one of the leading figures in the anti-Alton campaign, wrote in a recent article.

While opponents of Alton promoted their cause vociferously in the media and at public meetings, his supporters conducted a quieter campaign including silent vigils and church services, reflecting the strong religious base to the anti-abortion movement.

They concentrated on the simple message that the foetus's right to life is paramount. Most late abortions, said the conservative Jill Knight, were on "perfectly normal children whose only crime is that their mothers did not want them."

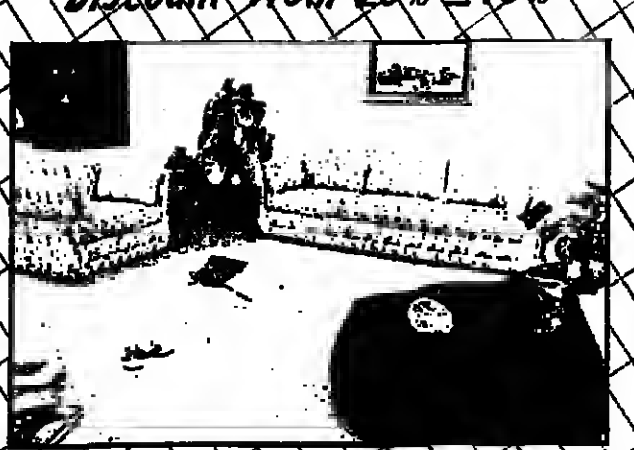
Groups such as Life and the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) circulated a million colour postcards of an 18-week-old foetus sucking its thumb.

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Becker leads W. Germany to 2-0 lead in Davis Cup

ESSEN, West Germany (Agencies) — Boris Becker showed he had shaken off the knee injury which has kept him out of competitive tennis since December by leading West Germany to a 2-0 lead over Brazil in their Davis Cup clash Friday.

Becker, displaying the power that won him two Wimbledon men's singles titles, overwhelmed Brazilian number two Cassio Motta 6-0, 6-2, 6-0.

Impressive reserve Carl-Uwe Steeh, a last minute substitute for injured Eric Jelen, then crushed Luiz Mattar 6-1, 6-2, 6-3 to give West Germany a commanding advantage ahead of Saturday's doubles.

In Prague, Czechoslovakia took a 1-0 lead over Paraguay in their Davis Cup World Group First Round tie when Petr Korda beat Hugo Chapcu 6-2, 6-1, 6-2.

Sri Lanka leads Malaysia

In Kuala Lumpur, Sri Lanka took a 2-0 lead over Malaysia by winning the opening singles of their Davis Cup, Asia/Oceania Zone Group Two tie.

Arjun Fernando beat V. Selvam 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 and Umesh Walloppillai beat Chow Chin Huan 9-11, 1-6, 6-2, 6-1, 3-1.

India, Yugoslavia draw level

In New Delhi, Yugoslavia's

high-hitting Slobodan Zivojinovic overcame the challenge of Indian Ramesh Krishnan 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 to level the Davis Cup World Group First Round tie after Vijay Amritraj had put last year's finalists ahead 1-0.

Zivojinovic, ranked 22nd in the world, started slowly and trailed 3-0 in the first set but his powerful serve soon began to work.

He delivered a series of aces, with Krishnan finding the Yugoslav's heavily-spun second serve as difficult to deal with as his blistering first.

Amritraj, 34, was untroubled against 20-year-old Bruno Oresar, winning 6-3, 6-0, 6-3.

In Jakarta, the first round of the Asian Oceanian Davis Cup zonal competition was halted Friday by pouring rain with Indonesia's Tintus Arianto Wibowo leading 6-3, 5-7, 6-3 against Thailand's Voraphol Tongkamchu.

Tennis officials said the match would be continued Saturday.

Japan takes lead in Manila

In Manila, Japan took a 2-0

lead over the Philippines by winning the opening singles in the Asia/Oceania Zone Group One tie.

Toshehesa Tsuchishashi beat Andres Battad 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 and Chigeru Ohta beat Ringo Navarrosa 6-1, 6-4, 6-4.

In Palermo, Sicily, Italy swept the two singles Davis Cup matches against Israel Friday.

Italy's Paolo Cane, needed only one hour and 35 minutes to down Israel's top player Amos Mansdorf in straight sets, 7-5, 6-3, 6-2.

Francesco Cancellotti outlasted Gilad Bloom in the marathon opener, winning 6-1, 6-2, 6-8, 6-4 on the slow clay courts.

Italy can wrap up the best-of-five match in the doubles Saturday. Reverse singles are scheduled Sunday.

Syria wins by default

In Damascus, Syria's Davis Cup tennis team won against Saudi Arabia by default Friday when the kingdom's players failed to turn up for the scheduled group 2, Asia/Oceania zone round.

Syrian sports officials said the Saudis apologized for not being able to attend. It was not immediately clear what prevented them from turning up for the tennis matches in Syria.

The matches had been scheduled to begin Friday and continue through Sunday. When the Saudis failed to turn up, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) announced that Syria had won by default.

Syria now will play Singapore in the next round April 8-10.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Zamalek crowned Afro-Asian champions

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian side Zamalek beat Japan's Furukawa 2-0 (half-time 0-0) Friday to clinch the Afro-Asian Soccer Championship title. Zamalek, Africa's 1986 champions, attacked from the start but it was in the first minute after the interval that their efforts were rewarded when Effat Nassar scored the first goal. Striker Gamal Abdul Hamid headed home the second in the 60th minute to the cheers of about 50,000 fans.

Becker loses court battle

FRANKFURT (R) — West German tennis player Boris Becker has lost a court battle of a different kind. A Frankfurt court declared Thursday the former Wimbledon champion to be "a public figure" and turned down his claim for compensation and damages against a Wiesbaden publisher who used Becker's photograph, without permission, on the front cover of a book. The judge ruled that, as a public figure, Becker had rights for compensation only when his photograph was used for advertising purposes.

McEnroe reported out of European tournaments

PARIS (R) — John McEnroe has delayed his tournament comeback and pulled out of Grand Prix events in France and Italy this month, according to the French Sports daily L'Equipe. L'Equipe Thursday quoted the American's agent Peter Lowler as saying McEnroe was still troubled by pains in his back and hip. "He does not feel 100 per cent," Lowler said. McEnroe, who has played only exhibition and the antwerp invitation tournament since last September's U.S. Open, had been due to play in the Lyon Grand Prix next week and Milan the following week. He was hampered for two months after an angry outburst at the U.S. Open.

Boost in prize money for Arc de Triomphe

LONDON (AP) — This year's Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe, Europe's most prestigious flat race, will be worth £500,000 (\$880,000) to the winner, a 25 per cent increase on the 1987 value, it has been announced. The Longchamp showpiece has been given its massive boost thanks to the sponsorship of Ciga, an international company specialising in high-quality hotels, and will be part of a weekend festival of horseracing which represents the most valuable meeting in Europe. The two-day fixture, to be staged on Oct. 1 and 2, carries a prize-money total of £1.5 million (\$2.64 million) and Ciga has agreed to back the programme for six years, until 1993.

Seoul says Olympics door still open for North Korea

SEOUL (AP) — Although North Korea has been condemned for its alleged role in the bombing of a South Korean jetliner, it won't be banned from joining in the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, a top official said Friday.

Assistant Foreign Minister Park Soo-Gil told foreign reporters the north could take part in the games that begin Sept. 17 in Seoul as long as it drops its demand to co-host the event.

"The door is still open for North Korea to take part in the Seoul Olympics as long as they accept a compromise by the International Olympic Committee (IOC)," Park said.

The Lausanne, Switzerland-based IOC offered to let North Korea host some events of the Olympics in Seoul on condition it drop its co-hosting demand.

Park said 56 countries had condemned North Korea since a woman confessed in Seoul on Jan. 15 that she had bombed the Korean Air (KAL) flight Nov. 29 on orders from the Pyongyang leaders. The woman said it was an attempt to disrupt the games.

North Korea has denied involvement, claiming that the plane's destruction was the work of South Korean intelligence agents to defame the north.

The minister also said the upcoming "Team Spirit" joint U.S.-South Korean military exercise would not affect North Korean efforts, if any, to settle the Olympic dispute.

AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE BASKETBALL STANDINGS

JUNIOR TEAMS	Pts	MIDS-1 TEAMS	Pts
Dorma	6	NECC	6
Arab Bank	4	Istiklal	4
Nash/EBB	4	Danish Dairy	3
Samar	2	Intercon	2
Astra	0	EEE	1

MIDS-2 TEAMS	Pts	SENIOR TEAMS	Pts
Marriott	4	JWM	6
Furukawa	4	France Lait	4
NEP	4	La Vache Qui Rit	4
Jor-Exp	4	Al Ahlyah	2
GEMT	0	Westinghouse	0

Results of Friday's games

JUNIORS	
Arab Bank 24	Samar 14
Astra 6	Nash/EBB 34

MIDS-1	
EEE 7	NECC 28
Danish Dairy 9	Intercon 8

MIDS-2	
Marriott 46	Furukawa 39
Jor-Exp 27	NEP 28

SENIORS	
JWM 54	France Lait 52
La Vache Qui Rit 49	Westinghouse 28

Soviet speed skater rejects ban threat at Calgary

CALGARY, Alberta (Agencies) — Nikolai Gulyayev, the Soviet speed skater at the centre of a steroids controversy, arrived for the Winter Olympics Thursday seemingly unconcerned he could be on a plane home before the games begin.

"I'm here to skate," the world champion said after arriving from Moscow with teammates. Asked for his reaction to the possibility he may be barred from the games following allegations he sold steroids to Norwegian skater Stein Krosby, Gulyayev waved his hands and said: "It's rubbish."

The International Olympic Committee (IOC), under pressure from the Norwegians to prevent Gulyayev competing here, is due to discuss the matter Saturday.

The IOC has asked Soviet officials what they intend to do about Gulyayev.

But IOC Vice-President Prince Alexandre de Merode told Reuters Thursday: "As things stand, there is no way we can take any action."

"We have to prove something. We are waiting. At the moment we cannot do anything but wait."

"I believe that if we want to conserve some credibility we have to be careful," he added.

"We have to be very strong, but very careful and not do anything without a real basis of proof."

"We don't know what is happening," De Merode said. "We have asked the Soviets to tell us."

Gulyayev refused to discuss the allegations after pushing his way through a battery of press photographers at Calgary airport. He said he would compete in the 500, 1,000 and 1,500 metres.

He said he was "fed up" with being hounded by newspapers and did not know if he would discuss the allegations at a formal press conference during the games.

Soviet sports officials have said Gulyayev was an unwitting courier in a delivery of 800 Soviet-made steroids to Krosby.

But the Norwegian has maintained that he struck a deal with Gulyayev to buy the drugs for Western currency.

Steroids are not banned in Norway but it is illegal to import them from the Soviet Union. The use of steroids to boost performance is banned by the IOC.

REQUIRED

The United Nations Children's Fund, (UNICEF), requires the services of a travel agent. Bidders are invited to collect a copy of our requirements from the UNICEF offices located at the Borj Building, 3rd Circle, 11th floor, Room 102, between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. daily, except Friday and Saturday.

Closing date for bids is Feb. 29, 1988.

VACANCY FOR A PART-TIME FUND RAISING CONSULTANT

Diplomatic mission in Amman has an opening for a part-time fund raising consultant, 24 hours per week for approximately five months. Applicant must have a degree in marketing or related field with fluency in English, and some experience in fund raising is preferable. Salary is commensurate with qualifications and prior experience.

Applicants who have working experience with non-government organisations (NGOs) in developing countries will receive preference. Interested applicants should submit application and recent bio data with salary history to the:

Finance & Management Office
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Amman, Jordan.

Deadline for submitting applications is February 12, 1988. Top candidates will be called for personal interviews.

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Tickets 500 fils each at Haya Centre in Amman & Aqaba.

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A Jordanian tourism co. has a vacancy for a full-time secretary (office hrs 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., 3:00-6:00 p.m.) with good knowledge of English language.

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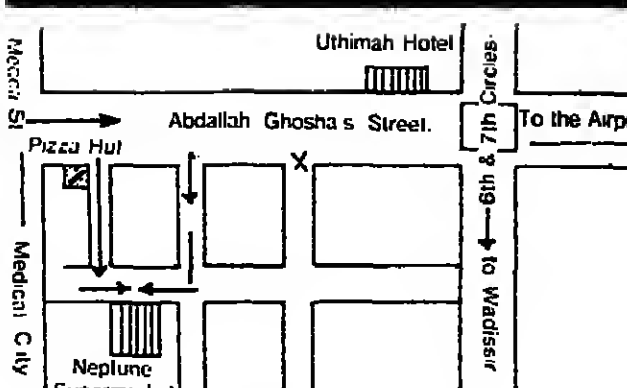
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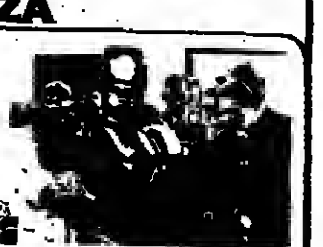
Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30



Cinema PLAZA Tel: 677420

ROBO COP

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30



Jordan gets IDB aid, loan

JEDDAH (OPECNA) — Jordan, along with two other developing nations, will receive a total of \$1.45 million in technical assistance from the Islamic Development Bank (IDB). Jordan will also benefit from another seven loans totalling \$47.5 million granted by the IDB to seven Islamic countries to help them promote trade transactions.

The assistance and the loans were approved by the IDB's board of directors at a meeting held in Jeddah Wednesday.

The approval came at the end of the IDB's 95th board session which also approved funds for projects to be carried out in Sudan, Uganda, Saudi Arabia, Libya and Egypt.

Prominent transport company earns nearly JD 4.4m profits

AMMAN (Petra) — The Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company (IJLTC) last year generated profits estimated at JD 3.1 million and also gained nearly JD 1.3 million in capital reserves, according to IJLTC General Manager Jamil Ibrahim.

Speaking during a visit Thursday by Transport and Telecommunications Minister Khaled Al Haj Hassan to the company's headquarters in Amman, Ibrahim said IJLTC now employs 1440 workers, 98 per cent of whom are Iraqis or Jordanians.

IJLTC is continually training local workers on all types of work and maintenance technology to prepare them to replace the remaining foreign technicians, Ibrahim said.

Haj Hassan was briefed on the company's operations and programmes for the coming years.

On Tuesday, the IJLTC signed a JD 3,927 million contract with the French company Renault Vehicules Industriels for supplying 150 trucks to help promote the work of the company and meet its expanding operations.

With the arrival of the additional trucks, the IJLTC will be owning a fleet of 900 trucks that will boost its transportation of goods to Iraq from the Jordanian sea port of Aqaba.

Ibrahim said that the new trucks will create new jobs for more people and will help ease the congestion of goods accumulated at Aqaba. He said that another agreement will soon be signed with a Yugoslav company for supplying trailers for the 150 trucks.

At the end of the meeting with IJLTC officials the minister toured the company's different sections and was briefed on their functions.

IWC lowers world wheat output

LONDON (AP) — World wheat production for 1987 is estimated at 507 million tonnes, 28 million tonnes below the previous season's record, the International Wheat Council (IWC) said Thursday.

In a detailed report on the world grain market, the council also said last year's output of coarse grains, primarily maize or corn, was estimated at 801 million tonnes, compared with 844 million in 1986 and the record 857 million in 1985.

The council, a leading forecasting body, left unchanged its estimate that Soviet grain imports would total 33 million tonnes in the marketing year between July 1987 and June 1988.

It said the outlook for the 1988 world wheat harvest was "mostly favourable," due to generally satisfactory weather during plantings and early growth.

However, it said there was concern in some regions. Many key wheat areas in northern China lacked protective snow cover against cold air that moved in late last month, while light rains in India and Pakistan only partly recharged soil moisture and irrigation water supplies, it said.

Last fall's drought also hurt the outlook for Tunisia and Algeria, it said.

The council tentatively forecast the amount of land sown in wheat for harvesting in 1988 at 221 million hectares (546 million acres), "hardly changed" from 1987 and possibly signalling a halt in the downward slide in plantings.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Wright Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

There are considerable numbers of changes facing you none of them is quite ready to be put in motion yet.

You would be wise to study all aspects of these changes and not make any sudden moves.

LIBRA (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You should use much caution today, since strange happenings could occur at a moment's notice. Handle your financial affairs tonight.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Postpone recreational activities until you can get your personal affairs in better order. Make sure you dress very nicely this evening.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Do what you can to relieve the tension at home by spending more time with your family. This is not a good day to entertain guests.

CANCER (June 21 to July 20) Stay clear of anyone who is in a bad mood, or it could rub off on you. You'll need to follow a well-planned schedule today.

LEO (Jul. 21 to Aug. 21) This is not a good time to discuss money and property matters with anyone. If you need to make some home repairs, do them yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You could get into a lot of trouble today if you get impatient and lose your temper, so stay cool. Don't be critical of your friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Your plan for a night on the town with your mate may have to be postponed. If so, stay home and have a great time together anyway.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A friend who is in trouble should be helped without a second thought; this person is most deserving. Drive very carefully today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If there are some obstacles in the path of your progress, remove them rather than trying to leap them. Don't neglect your bills.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't rely on others to help your progress. Pull yourself up by your bootstraps and forge ahead. Postpone a trip you have in mind.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) This is a good day to study your financial status and correct any errors you may have made. Don't get upset over a little setback.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Let a business partner know that you will carry through with any promises you have made, and maintain harmony with this person.

LIBRA (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You should use much caution today, since strange happenings could occur at a moment's notice. Handle your financial affairs tonight.

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't rely on others to help your progress. Pull yourself up by your bootstraps and forge ahead. Postpone a trip you have in mind.

New York Stock Exchange restricts programme trading

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) dealt a major blow to programme trading Thursday, banning its use for index arbitrage whenever the Dow Jones industrials move up or down 50 points in a day.

The exchange said it would apply to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to make a permanent rule restricting use of its automated order system when the key market indicator moves more than 50 points in a day. In the meantime, the NYSE asked member firms to honour the rule voluntarily.

The 50-point rule applies to a method of programme trading known as "index arbitrage" computer-directed intermarket trading which allows traders to take advantage of price discrepancies between stocks and stock index futures.

The ban would limit computer programme trading, in which orders to buy or sell are made by preset computer programmes as prices fluctuate and which is nearly impossible without the exchange's automated order system.

NYSE Chairman John Phelan called the ban "a step by the New York Stock Exchange toward limiting the potential market volatility caused by programme trading and reinforcing investor confidence."

Phelan, who has often cited computer programme trading as a disruptive influence on the markets and a contributor to the Oct. 19 crash in which the Dow Jones average plummeted 508 points, made the announcement after an NYSE board meeting.

Exchange members sought a tightening of earlier temporary restrictions that had banned programme trading after the market moved 75 points.

Wall Street has become anxious that the public will shy away from stocks and Washington regulators will intervene to impose restrictive changes if wild swings in the market are not quickly eradicated.

Earlier, Ruder told the Senate Banking Committee that stock and futures markets are so closely linked it makes sense for stock index futures to be regulated by the SEC rather than by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

He rejected the notion — advanced by the presidential task force appointed to study the October stock market crash — that the Federal Reserve Board should coordinate financial market policy.

Speaking of the current division in authority over stocks and futures markets, he said: "It's my opinion that the Securities and Exchange Commission should have what I think of as a tie-breaking function when we can't reach agreement with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the commission that regulates the futures industry."

Ruder, whose agency oversees the stock markets, said on NBC television show "Today" that he'd like to see leaders of stock and futures exchanges "get together to tell us what kinds of measures they think are important" to improve the functioning of financial markets.

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LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares fell sharply in hectic late afternoon business, partly on bearishness for the new account which started at 1530 GMT, and partly on speculation in the FTSE 100 futures market that the index was heading for 1,660 points.

The FTSE 100 share index dropped to 1,731.5 points by 1604 GMT, having been 23.2 points off at 1,743.7 only an hour before. Reports that a major U.S. broking house is forecasting 12 per cent U.K. base lending rates by late in 1988 had sent the market into a slide just after mid-session. Dealers said lack of buying for the new account and talk that ICI might be considering a rights issue added weight to the late decline.

"It looks as though the market tried to draw people in for the new account but when the buyers didn't bite they quickly marked prices down," one dealer said.

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Egypt reports slower growth

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's economic growth slowed to an average 4.5 per cent a year in the past two years, dragged down by lower oil earnings which plunged 38 per cent last fiscal year, the central bank said Thursday.

The slump in world oil prices caused a cut in foreign currency resources and was responsible for slow growth," the bank said in its report for the year ending last June 30.

Egypt depends mainly on oil exports, remittances from expatriate Egyptians, tourism and Suez Canal tolls for hard currency income.

Spurred by hard currency shortages in 1986-87, Egypt signed a

standby credits accord with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) last May and rescheduled payments on its \$40 billion foreign debt.

The central bank gave no economic growth figure for 1986-87, but said the average for the past two years was 4.5 per cent. This indicated Egypt fared worse last year than in 1985-86, for which the bank a year ago reported 5.9 per cent growth.

The report said oil revenue fell to 1,032 billion pounds (\$1.47 billion at the official bookkeeping rate) from 1.7 billion pounds (\$2.4 billion) in 1985-86.

But the bank said canal revenues rose 17.5 per cent to 769 million pounds (\$1,098 billion) and it reported a 44 per cent increase in the number of nights tourists spent in Egypt.

The report said transfers from Egyptians abroad, the biggest source of hard currency, fell to

1.54 billion pounds (\$2.2 billion) from 2.4 billion pounds (\$3.4 billion) in 1985-86. Most Egyptian expatriates work in the Gulf and some lost their jobs because of the oil price slump.

The bank did not give the basis of its calculations. It normally makes conversions at an official bookkeeping rate of 0.70 pounds to the dollar, which compares with a current market rate of about 2.2 pounds.

The budget deficit was 4.9 billion pounds (\$2.3 billion at current free market rates), a 3.5 per cent increase over 1985-86, the report said.

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Ortega accuses Reagan of new plots for contra aid after House failure

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaragua's government has accused President Reagan of plotting new ways to help rightwing guerrillas overthrow it despite his failure to win more military aid for the rebels.

In Washington, a White House official acknowledged that the administration had begun considering ways to maintain support for the rebels, known as contras, after the House of Representatives voted 219-211 to kill Reagan's \$36-million aid request.

The commander of the contra army said the guerrillas would have to scale down their attacks and change tactics to conserve military supplies because of the rejection, although he vowed to continue the fight.

Reagan got symbolic political support Thursday night from the U.S. Senate when it voted 51-48 in favour of his aid package, but the vote had no practical effect since approval by both chambers was needed.

The House vote Wednesday night was generally welcomed in Latin America as a boost for the regional peace plan signed by the five Central American leaders in August.

Costa Rica's President, Oscar Arias, who won the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize as architect of the plan, welcomed the vote "with great joy and also with a sense of

great responsibility for Central America."

Arias said it gave Central America the right to ask other governments to stop aiding guerrillas in other countries, especially Guatemala and El Salvador, and removed obstacles to a ceasefire in the area.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said Thursday the defeat of the aid package offered new hope for a regional plan for ending Central America's conflicts. "But this does not mean the war has ended or is about to end in Nicaragua," he told news conference. "Already, Reagan is meeting his National Security Council, searching and studying new formulas for continuing the war against Nicaragua."

In Washington a White House official, who asked not to be identified, said Thursday: "This one's not over yet. We will be sitting down today to see what the next steps will be."

Two top contra leaders, Adolfo Calero and Alfredo Cesar, told reporters in Washington their forces would redouble their struggle against the Nicaraguan gov-

ernment. They said they would seek assistance from countries other than the United States, acknowledging that their fighting funds would dry up by the end of March.

Speaking in a Central American country he declined to name, contra military Commander Enrique Bermudez said the rebels had been making about 300 attacks a month recently but that they would have to be more selective in choosing targets and would probably stage fewer offensives to conserve military supplies.

He also said he contacted many field commanders after the aid vote and they agreed the six-year struggle would continue and morale remained high. European reaction Thursday to the congressional vote against U.S. aid to contra rebels ranged from praise to cautious acceptance.

West German Hans-Juergen Wischniewski, an opposition Social Democrat and a mediator between the contras and the Sandinistas, said the vote was a "great success in efforts to continue the peace process."

In Madrid, Foreign Ministry spokesman Innocencio Arias said Spain considered the defeat of the aid package a step toward peace in Central America.

Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland said her country viewed the house vote as a sign of support for the peace process in Central America, which has been supported by the Norwegian government.

Former Prime Minister Kaare Willoch, a Conservative who heads the Norwegian parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, said: "In the current phase of the peace process, it was correct not to give military aid to contras."

In The Netherlands, a Foreign Ministry spokesman called the vote a domestic affair of the U.S. government.

"We continue to think that the solution to the Central American conflict should be peaceful," said the spokesman.

The Danish Foreign Ministry said it would have no official reaction to the vote.

Reaction from two Soviet-bloc countries was similar.

In Poland, state-run Polish radio reported the vote as a blow to Reagan's goal of "overthrowing the Nicaraguan government."

Britain's opposition Labour Party, regarded as liberal, said the vote heralds "a good day for democracy," according to Gerald Kaufman, the party's foreign affairs spokesman.

Thai-Lao fighting hinges on battle for 'killing field'

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's six-month border fight with Laos has been reduced to a struggle for a single hill, with a Thai advance bogged down under a hail of withering artillery fire in what Thai officers have nicknamed "the killing field."

Military sources in Bangkok said Thai fighter-bombers and artillery were pounding fortified Lao positions Friday on top of hill 1428 after taking over two other hills in the disputed border area in a renewed offensive this week.

However, an advance of Thai ground forces on the steep, thickly-forested and mined hill 1428 was being blocked by heavy shelling directed from within Laos at the only approach to the hill, they said.

"We're calling this area the killing field," one well-placed military source said. A Western military attaché described the terrain as "incredibly rugged."

That Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetia said Thursday about 100 Thais had been killed or wounded. The Thai army had said some Laotians had been captured and that Laos had suffered massive casualties.

Another said although only between 50 and 70 Lao troops were dug in on the hill it might take several days to oust them. "They have been bringing up reinforcements and are stubbornly pursuing the fight as long as they can," he said.

Thailand and Laos each claim an 80-square kilometre swathe of territory along the border, hating their stand on different interpretations of a 1907 map drawn up by the French during their colonial occupation of Laos.

The dispute began last May over logging rights in the area and fighting has flared sporadically since last August, with Thailand sending F-5E fighter-bombers to attack Lao positions in December.

One of the U.S.-built warplanes was shot down by a Lao SAM-7 missile Thursday, the fourth day of a Thai assault on the hilltop, about 400 kilometres north of Bangkok.

Both sides say they are willing to negotiate a settlement, but Thailand, whose population, resources and army dwarf that of its eastern Communist neighbour, demands a full withdrawal of Lao forces before talks can begin.

The Thai foreign minister, on a visit to Malaysia Thursday, directly implicated Vietnam in the conflict. Thai leaders have indicated, Vietnam was giving anti-aircraft missiles, ammunition and other support to enable Laos to continue fighting. Vietnam has 40,000 troops stationed in Laos.

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